



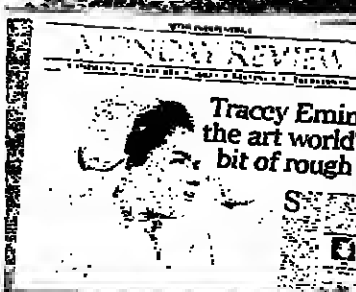
IN THE NEWS SECTION



England poised for victory

WITH 10 PAGES OF SPORT

IN THE BROADSHEET REVIEW



Artist or con artist?

THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW



How to have a happy holiday

PRIVATE LIVES, ARTS, COMMENT & NETWORK

Lottery millions paid to advisers

BY DAVID LISTER AND ANDREW MULLINS

MILLIONS OF pounds given to the arts from the National Lottery have gone to consultants for feasibility studies on projects that will never see the light of day.

More than 250 arts companies have spent £27m on these studies, money which could have paid off the deficits of every subsidised arts company in the country. Dozens of consultants charging up to £700 a day have grown rich on funds intended for struggling arts centres, theatres and concert halls.

One former leading figure in the arts last night said that the use of consultants was "the biggest job creation scheme of the Nineties". Brian Matcham, a former chief executive of the North West Arts Board and former deputy chief executive of the London Arts Board, said: "You'd be surprised how many consultants just trot out the same details over and over... anybody can do it. Quite a lot of the ones I have seen being used have no knowledge of the arts at all."

The lottery is littered with examples of money spent on consultants and feasibility studies for projects that will never be built. They include: The South Bank Centre in London - having been given £980,000 for a feasibility study of its £131m scheme, it was then given a further £1.2m to find ways of "reducing the cost of the scheme".

The Lyric Theatre, Carmarthen, was advised by the Arts Council of Wales to carry out a feasibility study to establish whether it needed dressing rooms. Elizabeth Evans, the theatre's head, said she "failed to understand why it is necessary to waste so much money (£40,000) when it is obvious that rehearsal and dressing rooms are required to replace the existing decrepit shed."

Consultants were used to advise on the Royal Opera House's £78m lottery application. The new chairman of the ROH has

disclosed that the ROH in fact cannot re-open under present funding and no business plan exists for the re-opening.

And the English National Opera spent £1m on a feasibility study for moving to a new building, with some of the cash going to consultants KPMG. The ENO decided to stay put.

Though arts venues are appalled at having to pay consultants 10 times as much as some of their own staff are earning, they feel they have no chance of having a lottery application accepted without showing they have used consultants. This fear is implicitly encouraged by the Arts Council, which sends every lottery applicant a list of more than 200 consultants.

But the practice is privately despised by many figures in the arts. Jennifer Edwards, director of the National Campaign for the Arts, an independent pressure group, said: "I get so many people weeping on my shoulder... Our members say they do all the work, the consultants just ask the questions."

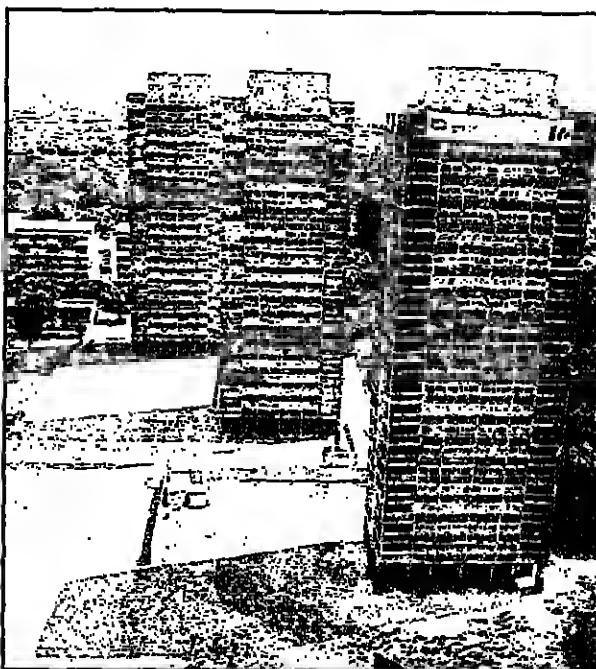
Philip Hedley, director of the Theatre Royal, in Stratford East, London, said it is, however, right to employ consultants to advise on specialist building work. Few arts managers understand how to proceed with multi-million pound projects. But, he added, "what you are seeing is the kind of consultant who interviews you and writes it up, and because it has the consultancy imprimatur on it, it is considered inherently more worthy."

The Arts Council itself also employs commercial consultants and last year spent £4m of lottery money evaluating their procedures and advising on whether they have made the correct lottery decisions. That figure is separate from a further £5.7m of lottery money spent by the Council on advice from other arts quangos.

The Arts Council deputy secretary general, Graham Devin, said: "We are developing a new strategy to ensure that there will be fewer speculative feasibility studies undertaken."

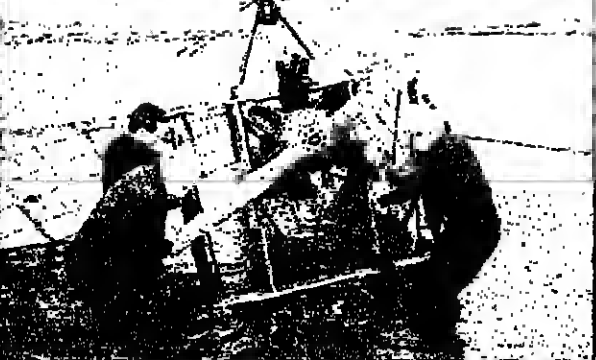
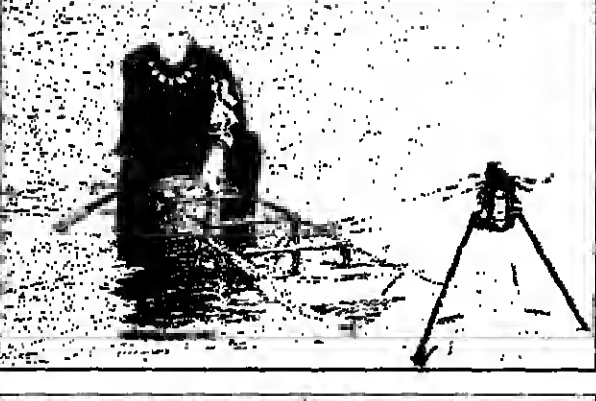
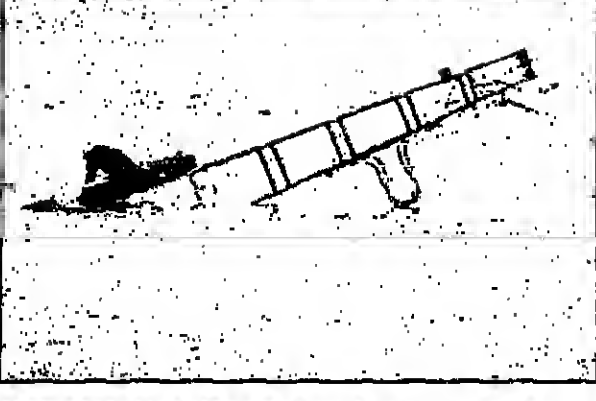
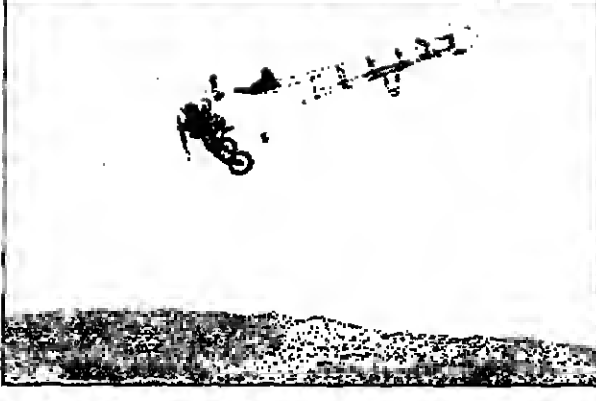
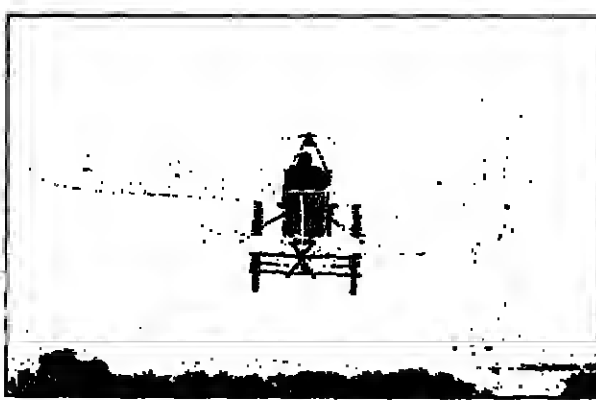
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What goes up, must come down



Farnell Point, in Hackney, east London, was yesterday reduced to 20,000 tons of rubble in five seconds. More than 200 people living in adjacent blocks on the Nightingale Estate were evacuated and up to 7,000 people watched from Hackney Downs as the 22-storey 1960s block came down in a cloud of dust.

Geoff Caddick



An attempt to re-enact Louis Blériot's inaugural flight across the Channel 89 years ago ended in ignominious failure when the great aviator's grandson, also Louis Blériot, crash-landed in a lake just two minutes after take-off from virtually the same spot in a field near Calais.

Chris Eades

Clinton told to testify to grand jury

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton has been served with a subpoena to appear before the grand jury in the Monica Lewinsky case and could be required to testify as early as this week.

The subpoena, disclosed by lawyers close to the investigation and subsequently confirmed by the office of the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, makes Bill Clinton the first incumbent President of the United States to be summoned to testify before a grand jury - a dubious distinction that will become part of his already tarnished legacy.

The only other sitting president to have received a subpoena is the late Richard Nixon, but the summons related not to him personally but to the tape recordings that he was required to hand over to the court.

Mr Clinton, whose duel with the independent counsel has been repeatedly compared with Mr Nixon's judicial tussles in the early stages of the Watergate investigation, would be liable to prosecution for contempt of court if he refused.

The President's lawyers were said yesterday to be "scrambling" to reach an agreement with Mr Starr that would keep Mr Clinton out of court and preferably have the subpoena withdrawn.

If he refused to comply, this could precipitate a major judicial and constitutional crisis. The President avoided a grand jury appearance in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit last year by agreeing to give videotaped testimony under oath from his lawyer's office in Washington.

Neither the White House nor Mr Starr's office would confirm exactly when the subpoena was served, but it is thought to have been some time last week.

The White House spokesman, Mike McCurry, disclosed late last week that Mr Clinton's lawyers were talking to Mr Starr about the terms on which Mr Clinton might agree to testify, but he did not mention the subpoena.

Mr Starr's investigation is trying to establish whether Mr Clinton lied under oath when he denied having an affair with Monica Lewinsky, who was then a 21-year-old

INSIDE

How Starr cornered the President:
The options open to Clinton
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trainee at the White House, and whether he then induced her to lie about it. Mr Starr's decision to subpoena the President suggests that his attempts to persuade Ms Lewinsky to testify are still stalled.

At the start of the investigation, she was reported to be willing to testify that she had a sexual relationship with the President. In return, she sought immunity from prosecution for perjury.

This, however, was insufficient for Mr Starr. He wanted evidence to support an obstruction of justice charge against the President.

Ms Lewinsky was at her home in California at the weekend after celebrating her 25th birthday there on Thursday.

Ministers move to end 'anti-gay' law

SECTION 28, the controversial rule which bans councils from promoting homosexuality, is to be abolished under legislation to be introduced this autumn.

The abolition, which has long been campaigned for by gay rights and equal opportunities groups, will be included in the new Local Government Act which follows a White Paper to be published this week.

The news might help to quell a possible rebellion by Labour backbenchers disappointed that the House of Lords has blocked plans to reduce the age of consent for gay men to 16.

The Home Secretary, Jack

BY FRAN ABRAMS Political Correspondent

Straw, is due to make an announcement about the future of the age of consent measure when it returns to the Commons tomorrow. Labour MPs who supported the move will meet him today but last night it seemed likely Mr Straw would be forced to drop the clause to save the rest of his Crime and Disorder Bill.

If that happens, the Government will bring in two separate measures to promote equality for gays this autumn. As well as bringing back the age

of consent measure, it will also act to overturn Section 28.

Clause 28, as it was known before it became law, was the focus of many protests and demonstrations. It prevents local authorities, and in particular teachers, from promoting homosexuality and was introduced in 1988 after a row over the use by schools of a children's book called *Jenny Lives with Eric and Martin*.

However, no one has been prosecuted under the section and officials at the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions say schools strike a good balance on the issue.

The 1996 Education Act, which covers sex education, requires teachers to emphasise "moral considerations and the value of family life". Ministers believe this is adequate to counteract fears that children could be subjected to gay propaganda in schools.

However, the move is bound to cause protest from the Conservatives, who introduced the measure.

Both the Local Government Association (LGA) and Stonewall, the gay rights group, have called for the section to be abolished. The LGA chairman, Sir Jeremy Beecham, said the

section interfered with the freedom of councils and impacted heavily on schools. Nearly 50 per cent of teachers surveyed by Stonewall and the Terence Higgins Trust said they had difficulty in addressing their students' needs because of it.

"Section 28 is an unnecessary and misconceived piece of legislation which promotes prejudice in schools instead of breaking it down," he said.

The Local Government White Paper will contain a whole range of measures designed to improve local authorities. Ministers want to breathe new life into local

democracy and to encourage more young, dynamic candidates to become councillors.

One of the measures in the paper will be the setting up of "beacon councils" to which others will turn for help and advice.

The White Paper will also announce the abolition of Compulsory Competitive Tendering and replace it with a system under which authorities must ensure they get "best value".

There will also be a reform of the business rates system and changes to the way in which the Government caps local authority finances.

Gay arts complaints, page 10

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How the lottery has made consultancy into a profitable art form

BY DAVID LISTER
AND ANDREW MULLINS

THEY MAY not have become millionaires overnight but management consultants have also done very well out of the National Lottery.

This is despite Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, saying in December: "We want money to flow into greater amounts of creative and cultural activity on the ground, rather than into the pockets of countless management consultants."

The Lottery has seen some of the best-known and most expensive management consultants in the country taking on arts work for the first time and setting up arts divisions.

Coopers & Lybrand's senior executive, Pelham Allen, has been seconded as business planning manager at the Royal Opera House, where he is understood to be earning £315,000 a year, though that comes from a trust set up by benefactors.

According to one arts consultant: "What the Lottery has done is create two breeds of

Jackson Associates, used to run the Theatre Royal in Glasgow. Working with John Faulkner, a former Arts Council drama officer, the pair are much sought-after by Lottery applicants.

Mr Jackson said: "The Lottery has at least doubled our work. We have taken on 12 projects in three years. Companies don't know what the Arts Council wants and expects but John was a drama director at the council, so we can help."

One of the most respected arts consultants is AEA Ltd. Caroline Kay, a senior consultant, said typical help for a company would consist of: "Helping them define their overall strategy; testing the audience potential via questionnaires, focus groups, collecting data and analysing records of current attendances; helping the client look at what options they might have redeveloping their current building; helping them draw up business plans and advising on staff numbers."

Three months is the normal minimum for a consultancy to work with a client. Ms Kay said there was a genuine worry that some consultants in the ever-burgeoning field were tempted to write feasibility studies, playing up the good aspects and playing down the negative.

The Arts Council has £2.5bn of applications chasing just £650m of Lottery cash available until 2006.

It has awarded £27m in grants to organisations to produce "feasibility studies" for projects which Gerry Robinson, its new chairman, admits have an ever-diminishing chance of becoming a reality. Yet a spokeswoman for Mr Robinson insisted: "Funding for feasibility studies is a valuable investment in the infrastructure of the arts whether or not the study leads to a built outcome."

Graham Devlin, the Arts Council's deputy chief executive, said yesterday that its use of consultants had dramatically increased when it became a distributor of National Lottery funds and had to become more accountable to the Government. He added: "We believe that the expertise that already exists within the sector will gradually enable us to provide proper accountability without such dependence on outside consultants in the future."

The council is not alone among the Lottery funding bodies in spending money on feasibility studies and on consultants. The Charities Lottery Board spent £2m on consultants over a 12-month period and since the Lottery began the Arts Council has spent £7.2m, the Heritage Lottery Fund £5.4m and the Millennium Commission, £3.7m on external assessors.



Gerry Robinson: Projects

consultant: the old-fashioned arts person who has gone freelance and gives of his or her services at a reasonable rate and a very different breed who have seen an opportunity and have come on board and are still charging as much as they did in the marketplace."

The Arts Council also uses outside consultants to help it assess applications and has made use of well-known names such as Sir John Drummond, former director of The Proms, and Richard Jarman, former head of Scottish Opera. The council has frozen its rate of pay for consultants at £250 per day.

Outside, rates can soar and many companies are offering their services. Consultancies on the Arts Council list have names that will appeal to worried arts organisations - names ranging from Cultural Partnerships to Responsive Arts and Cultural Resources to Creative Options Consultancy Ltd. David Jackson, of David

THREE STUDIES IN LOST CAUSES



The Askam-in-Furness Silver Band hopes to hit the right note, with help from the consultants, with their application for a £100,000 lottery grant

Will Walker

FANTASIA FOR ADVISERS & ENSEMBLE

THE ASKAM-IN-FURNESS Silver Band is applying for a £100,000 grant to renovate the band hall. If its lottery application is successful £40,000 will have been spent on consultants by the time the work is complete.

The hall sits beneath the Cumbrian mountains and is the focus of the seaside village's social calendar, providing a venue not only for the 103-year-old band but for

weddings and parties. Despite the band's success - they have twice reached the finals of the All England Brass Band Competition - Alan Benson, vice-chairman, is less confident of the band's abilities in other fields. "In this area people are very plain speaking, they don't easily accept bureaucracy," he said.

The band's original application for £50,000, which they made unaided, was

turned down because it lacked plans to develop the band hall as a centre for arts in the village (population 5,000), or to improve access for the disabled. Built by the band members in 1928 the mainly wooden band hall has started to show its age. Initially the plan was to patch it up. But then the Arts Council suggested the band hire consultants from a list supplied by Northern Arts.

The band was given a lottery award of £11,455 which together with £3,500 of its own money has been spent on hiring an architect and a theatre consultant to plan the re-development of the hall.

Around 40% of their lottery award has been spent on a theatre consultant, part of whose job is to find the right tone in the second application. He also developed the disabled

access plans, the cash flow and marketing projections.

"To be hypercritical, the goal-posts keep changing," said Mr Benson. "Even if we are successful this time, around a quarter of the new money will be paid out to consultants. More marketing strategies, access audits, architects fees." They have applied for £100,000 on this occasion. It turned out to be the cheapest of four options

considered by the consultants, though still twice the amount they originally asked for.

David Jackson, their theatre consultant, believes smaller organisations are facing increasing problems because the lottery money available for capital projects was hoovered up by fast moving, high profile, organisations.

ANDREW MULLINS



The Penrith Players rehearse at the Playhouse

Will Walker

THEATRES OF THE ABSURD

FEW stories illustrate the way the lottery has magnified the rivalries and complexities of provincial arts better than the bid for funds by the Penrith Players.

They will soon have spent £150,000 and have no theatre - or, rather, depending on how you look at it.

There is the small theatre that is too dangerous to use, the old cattle market that the Players would like to be a theatre and the one the local council has commissioned a £40,000 feasibility study for.

When the lottery began,

the Penrith Players Theatre was a small, rundown building under threat of closure on safety grounds. The lottery seemed to be the answer.

The Players applied and were awarded a £10,000 grant. They hired a theatre consultant and an architect and submitted proposals, but failed because the plan didn't satisfy Arts Council criteria.

The Players then got a further £29,400 for another study. But this time their plan was deemed too grandiose, so they sold up.

Using cash from the sale and a £30,000 grant from Eden council, they did more feasibility studies to adapt their plan for a new building.

Everything looked fine until the council published its own £40,000 local area study. This concluded the area could support a theatre, so the council decided to build its own complex, hopefully with £5.5m from the lottery.

Now the Arts Council says two theatres in Penrith is a bit much and The Players won't get any more money.

ANDREW MULLINS



An artist's impression of the proposed transformation of the South Bank

FEASIBILITY, PARTS IV & V

THE SOUTH Bank Centre's £127m lottery application to fund a striking wavy glass roof began controversially. The Arts Council gave it £900,000 in 1995 for a feasibility study, some of which would go to the scheme's architects, the Richard Rogers partnership.

The South Bank Centre - with a £400,000 deficit - also hired public relations company Lowe Bell. The centre mounted foyer exhibitions, which changed every time the plans changed. Publisher Lord Hamlyn said

he would give £15m once full lottery funding was agreed. A change of name to the Paul Hamlyn Centre was announced, but the Arts Council grew nervous; in the wake of the Royal Opera House scandals, it felt another expensive scheme for London would not be well received.

With consummate logic, the Arts Council two years ago to award the South Bank Centre a further £12m "to develop... specific elements to reduce the cost of the scheme."

It did so, putting in a £113m lottery bid instead of £127m.

By March of this year, the Arts Council said it was definitely for the scheme in principle... but could not fund it.

The South Bank board chairman Sir Brian Corby resigned. Chris Smith said he would bang heads together.

Two weeks ago the new chairman, Elliot Bernard, told journalists he had decided to drop the scheme completely. Spending £22m of lottery money on consultants and architects has not resulted in one single improvement for music and art lovers.

DAVID LISTER

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Virgin deny sacking over abortion row

VIRGIN ATLANTIC Airways, the airline founded by Richard Branson, is to be asked to answer assorted racial and discriminatory misconduct charges in court this week, including an allegation that it fired a former reservations manager in the United States because she refused to have an abortion.

The abortion claim is at the heart of a wide-ranging civil suit filed by Lorna Brissett-Romans, a Jamaican-born mother of three, who worked for the company for ten years in the US until her dismissal in May 1994. The suit comes to trial at the Manhattan Federal District Court in New York tomorrow. Virgin Atlantic denies all of the claims.

Expected at the trial are assertions by the plaintiff that she was once the victim of an unsolicited and lascivious approach by Mr Branson during a company party in Florida. Lawyers for Ms Brissett-Romans will claim that the airline's chairman fondled her buttocks on the dance floor.

In their pre-trial filings to the court, lawyers for the plaintiff describe her walking off the dance floor after her alleged encounter with the airline chairman, and then meeting the company vice-president, David Tait. Mr Tait allegedly then said to her, "Richard is going to party with someone tonight".

Mr Branson is not expected to be asked personally to testify during the trial, which will be heard before a jury and last for up to two weeks. While Ms Brissett-Romans has not specified the damages she is seeking, her loss of income, pensions and benefits have been estimated at about £1.3 million.

The court papers filed by the plaintiff also make reference to a multiple-choice questionnaire which the airline allegedly used in training sessions of its US-

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

based staff. Many of the optional answers in the documents are racially charged and would be deeply offensive to many ethnic minorities.

"It is Virgin Atlantic's intention to fight this case in court," the airline said in a statement. "There is simply no truth to any of Ms Brissett-Romans' accusations against



Richard Branson

the company or individual employees. Virgin does not condone discrimination of any kind."

The company also insisted it had no knowledge of the questionnaire. It remains unclear whether the lawyers for the plaintiff will be able to demonstrate to the jury that the documents were scripted by airline staff as official training material. They contain 20 questions aimed at tackling "everyday" problems confronted by an airline.

Some of the possible multiple choice answers are crude and almost inconceivably offensive. One question concerned what staff should do when asked to provide a kosher meal by a passenger. Among the answers were: "Offer him

a pork pie", and: "Ask him to prove he is Jewish in the only way you know how".

To a query about how to deal with a passenger who appeared to be Puerto Rican and could not speak English, the questionnaire asked: "Do you ask him if he appeared in West Side Story?". As for the arrival at check-in of a passenger of Arab origin bound for New York, the document asked: "Do you say (a) Would you like me to hold your gun, sir?"

A spokesman for the carrier dismissed the issue of the questionnaire as erroneous but also "irrelevant" to the principle accusation concerning the pregnancy of Ms Brissett-Romans. The same objections, he said, should apply to the allegations of sexual harassment against Mr Branson.

Ms Brissett-Romans will tell the court that when she joined Virgin in 1984, she already had one daughter and that she gave birth to a second daughter in 1985 when she was working as a sales agent for the airline.

According to Ms Brissett-Romans, she became pregnant again in 1990 and was told by superiors then that she should have an abortion because the company frowned on women with large families, particularly if they were from ethnic minorities. She indeed did abort the pregnancy, she will say.

In 1992, according to the pre-trial filings, Ms Brissett-Romans became pregnant again and was once more told by a superior to seek an abortion.

Ms Brissett-Romans will claim that on her return to work she encountered consistent hostility from her superiors and lost her job.

Virgin, however, will argue that her firing had nothing to do with her ethnic origin or her absence to give birth. "She was dismissed for legitimate job performance reasons alone," the Virgin spokesman insisted.



Lorna Brissett-Romans who is seeking an estimated £1.3m damages, with her daughter, Ashley Steve Douglas

Women barred from Beckett play

BY DIANA BLAMIKES

THE ESTATE of one of the 20th century's greatest playwrights, Samuel Beckett, has halted a production of his best-known work, *Waiting for Godot* - because it was to be acted by women.

A Manchester-based theatre company had to call off their show at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe just weeks before the curtain was due to rise after the estate ruled that the "production in drag" could ridicule the famous author.

The Beckett estate stopped the Grimey Up North theatre company production when they heard the central characters, Vladimir and Estragon, were to be acted by women.

The company tried to persuade the estate that by having women act out the roles of the two tramps it would bring the play up to date by showing that their plight was that of mankind and not just that of men alone.

But the estate refused to bend the rules and the company's dream of performing *Waiting for Godot* in Edinburgh had to be abandoned. Actress Jo Heathcote, 30, and Jo Waddington, 17, had rehearsed to perfection the enigmatic lines of the conversation between the two tramps as they patiently wait for Godot.

The cash-strapped theatre company had raised £1,500 to publicise the play, printing 2,000 posters and distributing 3,000 fliers. Erin Ozag, company director, said: "We wanted to show that women suffer the same things as men. The Beckett estate just thought we were a gay rights group or that we had a political motive but that wasn't the case at all."

Peter Murphy of Curtis Brown defended the estate's position. He said: "This is not sexist. It is artistic. The estate has the right to determine how a production is performed. We have to be more strict with Beckett because his plays are so specific. To do something different is not what he wrote."

Atomic factory prosecuted after workers contaminated

THE GOVERNMENT'S atomic weapons factory at Aldermaston is to be prosecuted after workers were contaminated with radioactive plutonium.

Details of one of the accidents have emerged in a Health and Safety Executive report, which reveals that the plutonium leak took place in a laboratory on December 15.

Radiation levels were reported to be so high that HSE officials were unable to carry out an inspection for more than two months after the incident.

The HSE is now bringing its first prosecution against Aldermaston for a leak of radioactive plutonium, the lethal element which provides a nuclear weapon's explosive core. Two workers "received small internal radiation doses by inhalation".

Last night an HSE spokeswoman said: "Their health is not seriously affected but this

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

should not have happened at all."

The leak is understood to have occurred as workers removed a section of pipe during a clean-out operation. The workers were unaware that the pipe contained a filter which dispersed radioactive particles into the laboratory.

The prosecution for a lapse of procedures of Aldermaston's parent company, AEA plc, and its management contractors Hunting-Brae, is due to take place at Newbury, Berkshire, next month. The action is being brought under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

The company points out that the risk to the workers was "negligible" and claims that it always learns from incidents at the site. Hunting-Brae claims that its safety record "com-

pares extremely favourably with industry generally".

But it is not the first time there has been a leak of radioactive plutonium at Aldermaston. Two years ago, a similar leak involved five workers of whom at least one was contaminated in an accident which occurred during an everyday stocktaking exercise. At that time, the HSE did not have powers of prosecution over Aldermaston.

Plans by the Government to build a new £20m nuclear reprocessing plant at Dounreay have been criticised by Scottish nationalists as "utterly unnecessary and misguided".

It would take three years to build the new dissolver plant at the taxpayers' expense - despite the Government's recent decision to phase out the Caithness complex.

SNP's environment spokeswoman Roseanna Cunningham, MP, said the idea of replacing the plant at this late stage was "simply ludicrous".

"It seems utterly insane that after an announcement that Dounreay's days were over, the Government now plans to build a totally new plant on the site, which will be destroyed only a few years after it is built."

Two years ago, the plant's reprocessor D1206, which was used to extract plutonium and uranium from used fuel elements, developed a 'pin-hole' leak.

The operators, UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA), had two options - to repair the reprocessor or build a new one. However, it is believed government scientists advised the UKAEA that repairs would be unlikely to satisfy tough European safety regulations and a new plant would be the only solution.

IN BRIEF

Fears grow as 'Angel of Mostar' continues her hunger strike

FEARS WERE growing today for the health of British charity worker Sally Becker, 37, who refused to be put on a fluid drip four days into a hunger strike in protest at being jailed in Kosovo for trying to smuggle a family from the area. She was dubbed 'the Angel of Mostar' for rescuing children from the war-torn town in 1993.

Sentencing in shaken-baby case

JAMES PEARSON, 27, from Llandudno, north Wales, who admitted shaking his daughter Nicola, to death, is to be sentenced today at Chester Crown Court. He has pleaded guilty to manslaughter. Nicola was three months old when he shook her; she died 10 months later in hospital.

Cliff-fall teenager recovering

ROBERT MILTON, 17, was "tired but comfortable" in hospital after clinging for four hours to rocks in the River Moriston, by Loch Ness, after the path he was on collapsed and he fell 70ft. Rescuers hauled him to safety.

Four share £8m Lottery jackpot

THE £8m National Lottery jackpot on Saturday was shared by four tickets. The winning numbers were: 36, 43, 18, 44, 25 and 38. The bonus ball was 19.

Meningitis kills boy on holiday

BY TIM MOYNIHAN

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD British boy who died of meningitis in France was named last night as Matthew Scott.

The child, from the New-castle area, died in hospital in Nantes overnight.

Scores of youngsters have been vaccinated against the disease at a camp site in northern France where Matthew and his family stayed earlier in the week.

Last night the director of the camp site, Les Ajoncs, at Audresselles, near Boulogne-sur-Mer, sent her condolences to Matthew's family.

Marie-Therese Ellart said: "He will have brought the disease with him, perhaps from England."

"It takes several days to show symptoms. He was not ill when he was here. The vaccination programme was purely preventative and everything is OK."

"Matthew and his family were only here for one night, on Tuesday, before going elsewhere on their holiday."

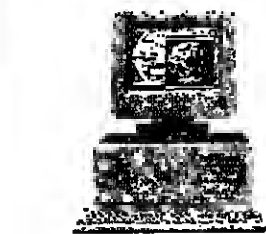
"I saw the little boy on Tuesday when he was playing with other children. It is so sad and I would like to send all our condolences to his family."

She said he was with his mother and father and a sister who she thought was a little older than him.

The Foreign Office confirmed Matthew's name.

A spokesman said consular officials were in touch with the family.

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The £42.50 a week YTS boy worth £4m

FOOTBALL PLAYER transfer inflation ratcheted up another notch yesterday when it was reported that Newcastle United had bid £4m for a 16-year-old boy currently on a YTS contract worth just £42.50 a week.

Kenny Dalglish, the manager of Newcastle United, has had talks with the manager of third division Peterborough about apprentice player Matthew Etherington. Dalglish is reported to have offered Peterborough's manager Barry Fry an initial payment of £1.5m, with a further £2.5m to be paid if the trainee starts making regular first team appearances for Newcastle.

The bid reinforces Dalglish's reputation as one of football's biggest spending managers.

The 16-year-old left-winger is still too young to become a professional player and needs to wait until his 17th birthday next month before signing professional forms.

Etherington made his debut for Peterborough's first team last year at the age of 15 and has since been watched by scouts from Liverpool, Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur. Mr Fry claims all three have subsequently made million-pound offers for the player.

Earlier this year, West Ham created a trainee transfer record when it paid Rochdale £2.3m for Stephen Bywater. Matthew appeared calm in

By PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

the face of big-team attention yesterday. "I have so much to learn and a long way to go. I am a 16-year-old apprentice and the only thing I am looking forward to is signing a professional contract on my 17th birthday next month."

"I am aware that clubs have shown an interest in me and I am flattered. It's every kid's dream to play in the Premiership. But I see that as very much in the future. I am in no hurry to leave Peterborough."

In the time-honoured way of these things, Matthew's mother told a Sunday newspaper yesterday that he is "a level-headed lad".

He required the permission of his headmaster to travel to Brentford for his first team debut last year and had to pass his GCSEs before he could work full time for Peterborough. His Youth Training Scheme duties include cleaning boots and the changing rooms and sweeping the stadium terraces.

Despite Matthew's desire to stay on in the third division, the economics of football mean

that, for small teams like Peterborough, the sale of a star player to a Premiership team can completely transform their financial fortunes.

There are around 1,400 teenage boys on two-year YTS schemes with league football teams. About half are simply released at the end of their YTS years and most of the rest fall through the leagues, ending up in lower division teams.

Under the YTS scheme, they do two days a week at college training courses in order to train them for a non-footballing career. Most specialise in vocational qualifications that will prepare them for the sport and leisure industries.

Matthew Etherington's parents decided to change their lives completely on the basis of their son's offer from Peterborough. Matthew was spotted four years ago by Peterborough's youth development officer when he was playing for a local team in Cornwall.

After a trial and a tour of Denmark with Peterborough, Matthew was offered a school-boy form by the team.

His parents decided to move the family from Cornwall to the East Midlands to allow him to take his place. He has played six times for England's under-16 team and, to cement his connection with Peterborough, his mother has become secretary for the club's football academy.

FROM TRAINEE TO BIG TIME

Alan Shearer
YTS at Southampton on £225 a week. Now the captain of England and was once the most expensive player in the world at a cost of £15m.
Michael Owen
YTS at Liverpool on £100 a week. The boy wonder of the recent World Cup at the age of just 18. His transfer value would be astronomical.
David Platt
YTS at Manchester United on £130 a week. A goal in the 1990 World Cup transformed his career. He became one of the most

valuable players ever in terms of his combined value from multi-million pound transfers.
Stan Collymore
YTS at Walsall on £35 a week. Recently disgraced himself after attacking his than girlfriend Ulrika Jonsson, but two of the country's biggest clubs have paid more than £7m for his services.
Rio Ferdinand
YTS at West Ham on £35 a week. Also taken to the recent World Cup finals and has been tipped as one of the stars to watch in the millennium.



Matthew Etherington, the terrace sweeper who is now worth £4m MMP Cambridge

Tighter controls on food packs

By IAN SHOESMITH

THE GOVERNMENT is to crack down on food manufacturers who try to deceive shoppers, it was announced yesterday.

Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs minister, said that from next January food packaging would have to show a "unit price", to enable consumers to make easier comparisons between brands.

He said: "We want absolute transparency so that any attempt to reduce the size of products will immediately show a unit price increase."

Mr Griffiths' directive comes after revelations that several leading brands have repackaged goods in smaller cartons without cutting prices. Consumer groups say "brand shrinkage" has been widespread for the last five years.

Harriet Hall, of the National Consumer Council, said: "Companies have realised that they can reduce the weight and few people will notice."

Heinz 430g tin of spaghetti bolognese shrank by 25g while the price remained the same, for example. However, Heinz spokesman Nigel Dickie, said: "The weight of the can is the second biggest item displayed." He said the size of cans was reduced because of a European Union directive calling for a standard size.

Campbell calls for 24-hour spin

THOSE Sam phone calls are just part of the routine for Alastair Campbell. Which, presumably, is why Tony Blair's official spokesman wants other government press officers to share some of the burden.

Mr Campbell, who spoke publicly yesterday about how his job often disrupts his sleep, has suggested that key departments should have press officers at their desks 24 hours a day.

Senior aides from some departments are resisting the move, saying that as there will be no one else there at 3am there will be little they could do that they could not do from home.

Technological innovations such as lap-top computers mean they can access databases and ring officials if necessary, they say. All government departments already have a duty-officer system through which a press officer can always be contacted at home via a telephone link or a pager.

But now they report that Mr Campbell wants them to stay in their offices as part of his drive to make the Government Information Service more pro-

By FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

active. In Northern Ireland, departmental press officers were asked several months ago to stay at work and ring the province's papers late at night to find out what stories they are running and rebut them before they happen. Senior officials there replied that they were civil servants, not spin doctors, and could not be expected to act in a party political manner.

New Labour's abrasive approach to media relations has already led to a number of personnel changes.

No fewer than 11 heads of information have departed since the general election, and a number of key recruits have come from outside the civil service.

Martin Sixsmith, a former television journalist, is now director of information at the Department of Social Security while Downing Street, the Foreign Office and the Northern Ireland Office have all brought in former journalists to key press office positions.

Mr Campbell's remarks about 24-hour phone calls came as

he gave a radio interview to pay tribute to his opposite number in Bill Clinton's office, Mike McCurry, who is stepping down.

He said that he had to get Mr McCurry out of bed earlier this month to discuss how to handle reports that Britain and the United States were about to strike a deal to bring two Lockerbie bombing suspects to trial before briefing lobby journalists. In similar circumstances Mr McCurry had had to do the same to him.

Mr Campbell, who has three children, said he was sure one of the reasons for Mr McCurry's departure was to spend more time with his family.

"It is difficult if you've got young children. He's got young children. I've got young children. The phone never stops, and on a weekend like this, every single political journalist in Britain is convinced that I'm bound to want to tell them exactly what is in the Prime Minister's mind about the reshuffle when in truth I have no intention of telling them anything."

"You get that sort of intrusion and pressure on the family life and it can be very difficult," he said.

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Blood-curdling cries bring good news

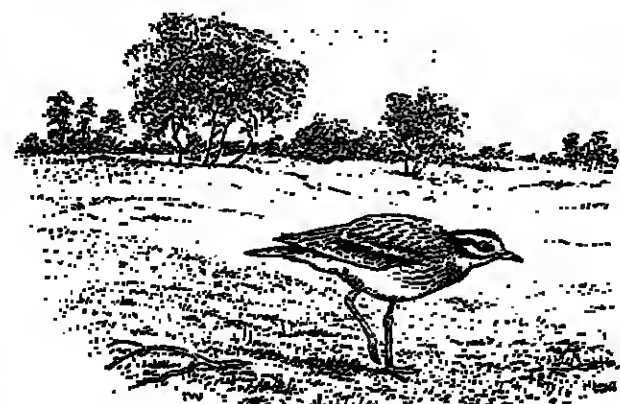
THE BLOOD-curdling screams of one of Britain's rarest birds are being heard in increasing numbers once more after a campaign to save it has exceeded all expectations.

The population of the stone curlew - famous for shattering the night with eerie, wailing shrieks - was down to about 150 pairs before the secretive bird was one of the first species to be targeted by the biodiversity action plan.

English Nature and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds enlisted the help of farmers and conservationists to get the breeding population back up to 200 pairs by 2000.

According to new figures, the plan has succeeded two years early. The population has already reached 206 pairs - with 140 in East Anglia and 66 on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire. They hope to reach the next target - 300 breeding pairs by 2010 - several years early as well.

Traditionally, the jackdaw-sized stone curlew - also known as thick-knee - inhabits barren wasteland and heathland and appears only at night, which accounts for its large, goggle



Stone curlew population is growing

T&AD Poyser

eyes. Its piercing screams can be heard more than a mile away on a quiet night. The bird does not fly until it has to, preferring to scuttle away using its streaked sandy-brown plumage as camouflage.

Peter Hayman, in charge of protecting the birds in East Anglia, said: "We should reach the 300 target early, thanks to the excellent cooperation we have from local farmers. But we do need better summers than we have had this year."

Norfolk farmer and wildlife photographer Chris Knights, who is closely involved with saving the stone curlew, said: "Even with the intensive cropping of the land we can find ways for these birds to breed very successfully."

"One of the best ways to encourage them has been through the intelligent use of set-aside and, with the RSPB and the Ministry of Agriculture, we have devised ways of making it ideal for them."

Asylum White Paper: Welfare groups accuse the Home Office of picking on the 'weakest and most vulnerable'

Straw gets tough over immigration

JACK STRAW yesterday adopted a hard-line stance ahead of today's announcement of the Government's White Paper on asylum and immigration.

The Home Secretary pledged to be "a lot tougher", dashing hopes of a full amnesty for asylum-seekers already in Britain. He is also preparing to do away with benefits for such immigrants and increase the use for detention for those awaiting decisions.

Mr Straw is also believed to be planning to crack down on unscrupulous immigration advisers, to give new powers to immigration officers to raid premises and to increase the number of overseas liaison officers to prevent asylum seekers boarding planes to Britain without the right papers.

The Home Office approach has angered immigrant welfare groups who accused New Labour of picking on the "weakest and most vulnerable". But Mr Straw said yesterday on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost* that urgent action was needed. With the backlog of asylum

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

seekers now at 75,000, the Home Office has promised a major overhaul of the system, transforming it from the current "shambles" to a process which is "firm, fast and fair".

Nearly 51,000 applicants are still awaiting a first decision on their case, and 10,000 of these have been in Britain since at least 1993. Nearly 24,000 are appealing against decisions to refuse them asylum. Mr Straw has faced calls for a large-scale amnesty to clear the backlog but said yesterday: "No one who has had a decision made against them awaiting removal or deportation will be allowed to stay."

While the term "amnesty" may be politically unacceptable to the government, the Home Secretary's comments may still allow for a "regulation of the status" of the pre-1993 cases to allow them to stay. Amnesty International and other non-governmental organisations say that without

such measures the clearing of the backlog will be impossible.

Mr Straw said: "As a constituency MP, I am seeing a great growth of people abusing the asylum system simply to evade immigration control or because they are economic migrants to this country."

But Nick Hardwick, chief executive of the Refugee Council, criticised the government's attacks on economic migrants. "What sort of crimes are these people doing? Most of them are working in fast food restaurants, cleaning toilets in hotels and driving mini-cabs."

Claude Moraes, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said: "I would like to see some acknowledgement of the positive effects of immigration, particularly from the new Commonwealth," he said. He also called for Labour to uphold its manifesto commitment to restore the right of appeal to visitors refused entry to the UK.

Last year the number of asylum applications rose to 32,500, of which 80 per cent were refused.



Albanian women and children flee a settlement in the line of a Yugoslav army offensive in the troubled province of Kosovo

Oleg Ponomarev

Refugee brothers from Kosovo imprisoned

BY IAN BURRELL

TWO BROTHERS from the war-ravaged former Yugoslavian region of Kosovo have been thrown into prison after arriving in Britain to claim asylum.

Abdije and Arton Gashi are from the majority Albanian community. They claim to have been beaten by Serbian police officers after taking part in anti-Serb demonstrations.

Earlier this month, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said when announcing changes to the asylum appeal process, that nearly all Kosovans were accepted "for obvious reasons". But such a welcome has not been extended to the Gashi brothers. British immigration

officials said they should try to make their new life in Italy, the country they reached first after escaping from Kosovo.

The brothers spent weeks sleeping rough in a park in Rome but abandoned asylum appeal in Italy after a Serb was appointed to hear their account of persecution.

Their solicitor Sajid Sheikh

said the brothers then tried to return to Kosovo but were confronted by Serb border police.

Their passports were confiscated and they were told to return tomorrow to be interviewed by a senior officer. They were sure they would be imprisoned or killed," he said.

Instead, the Gashis paid an agent who took them to Britain,

concealed in a lorry. Mr Sheikh said that on arrival in London they contacted the authorities, who arranged their release.

"On the fifth morning they were surrounded by police officers, handcuffed and taken to prison," he said. The brothers are being held in a Home Office detention centre in Hampshire. *Trial of blood, page 12*



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صيانة من الأهل

Puzzle of 'wrong body' is reopened

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

THE BODIES of a mother and her murdered son are set to be exhumed in what could be the final twist in a bizarre 13-year-old mystery.

The saga began in December 1985 when Edward "Ebbie" Walsh was found stabbed to death with a ceremonial sword on a street in west London.

He had been killed after a violent argument over a card game at a flat in Notting Hill. Since then his body has lain in a family plot in a cemetery in Galway, west Ireland.

At least that was what the authorities insisted. But his family believe there may have been a mix up, or even a cover up, and the wrong body has been buried.

For the past decade they have asked for the case to be reopened and for the body to be re-examined. Now, after a visit to Scotland Yard and a meeting with two Home Office ministers the family, their legal team and an Irish minister, Frank Fahey, who is their MP, believe they are on the verge of a breakthrough.

The police in Ireland have previously refused to exhumate the body, arguing that the murder took place outside their jurisdiction.

With the support of the British authorities, the family say they are confident that the Irish authorities will have the body dug up and its DNA tested.

To get at the body, Ebbie's mother, Margaret, who died



Mr Walsh's body was held for seven weeks then returned to Galway and buried in the family plot at Rahoon. A firm of undertakers said it removed the body from the mortuary on 7 February 1986.

But two pathologists said that a second post mortem examination was carried out on 8 February. One has since retracted this statement.

Raymond Walsh was the only family member to see the body, but he was allowed to look at it only from a distance. He says he never signed a declaration of identification.

A pathology professor has since analysed a photograph of the dead man and concluded it had little likeness with a picture of the deceased taken a month before the stabbing. Mortuary records suggest the man sent to Galway was 5ft 11in, Mr Walsh was 5ft 10in.

There has also been confusion over the transcript of the murder trial. Attempts to get a transcript have failed and the Crown Prosecution Service has said that the file may have been accidentally destroyed.

Earlier this month, Mr Walsh, Mr Fahey, and the family's legal team met the Westminster coroner, Dr Paul Knapman, who has agreed to examine a new legal opinion with regard to have the inquest resumed. The family later met Home Office ministers Alan Michael and Lord William of Mostyn, who said they would help.

The family have re-applied for the body to be exhumed.



Raymond Walsh at Rahoon. Is 'Ebbie' (above) buried there?

Joe O'Shaughnessy

Mr Graham Moore

IN AN article headlined "Ministers' concern over police chiefs" (15 June), reference was made to Mr Moore, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police.

The article stated that Home Office ministers "are

seriously concerned about the number of police chiefs who are under a cloud or have been forced to retire amid controversy and accusations of incompetence and wrongdoing".

We wish to make it clear

that such concerns do not relate to Mr Moore and that Mr Moore acted with the full support of West Yorkshire Police Authority in removing the designated deputy role from Mr Allan Charlesworth. We regret any confusion caused.

Gulf

Door opens on Constable's pain



BY ELIZABETH PICKERING

IT WAS in John Constable's drawing room that his youngest child first screamed, his wife died of tuberculosis and the landscape painter immortalised a view "unsurpassed in Europe".

Yesterday the home, in Hampstead, north London, was opened to the public for the first time and for one day only. More than a hundred visitors gathered at number 40 Well Walk to see the room which encapsulated some of the most turbulent years of the artist's life.

"It's a celebration of a great painter who was also a fine and kind man," said Annabel Ohlholzer, the current owner of the grade II listed house. "One can look back 170 years and be in the same space and empathise with him."

The pain and bereavement lived out at Well Walk emerged in Constable's later paintings, such as *Hadleigh Castle* in the Tate Gallery, which are famous for their wild and stormy skies.

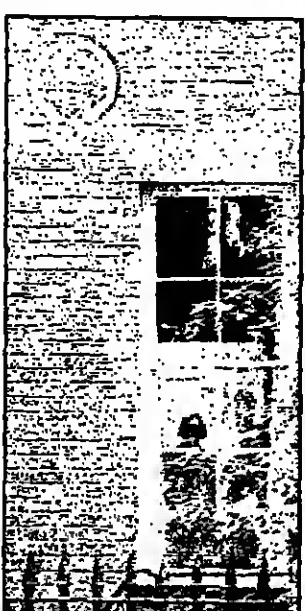
"You see the turbulence in the later paintings which become terribly distressed," said Mrs Ohlholzer, also a painter. Having bought the house in 1988, she and her husband have changed few of its original features and decorated it in period style.

"I don't feel we are permanent owners," she said. "We are just lucky to be here and looking after it. I am very aware of its past inhabitants. If they are ghosts, they are lovely ghosts."

The Constables and their children moved to Well Walk in 1827.

His wife, Maria, was pregnant and suffering from pulmonary consumption and the painter wrote that he was eager "to prevent, if possible, the sad rambling life which my married life has been, flying from London to seek health in the country."

Constable's painting 'London from the Drawing Room at Well Walk' (above), which can be seen at the Victoria and Albert Museum and which was painted at his house in Hampstead, north London (right and below), where Annabel Ohlholzer yesterday showed visitors round for the first time. Peter Macdiarmid



of St Paul's in the air seems to realise Michelangelo's words on seeing the Pantheon: 'I will build such a thing in the sky'."

This view was immortalised in a series of watercolours including *London from the Drawing Room at Well Walk*, held at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

The present John Constable, great-great-grandson of the artist, attended the opening yesterday and said: "It was a house that made Maria very happy. I think that's why there is such an emotional feeling about Well Walk."

But she was to enjoy it for little more than a year. Soon after giving birth in January 1828, Maria's health worsened. She died in November and soon afterwards her husband wrote: "Hourly do I feel the loss of my departed Angel. God only knows how my children will be brought up."

The painter kept his lease on Well Walk until 1834, three years before his death. Of his six children, two died before they reached 30 and

which the present John Constable described as "a philistine act". "I am so distressed about the new development because it's part of our responsibility as caretakers of this house, to see that it does not get spoiled," said Mrs Ohlholzer.

Alexandra Lavy, of Gainsborough Gardens, argued the view was already compromised by buildings. While the artist wrote passionately that "man is the sole intellectual inhabitant of one vast natural landscape", 170 years later the council stated: "Planning legislation cannot consider the protection of views as they currently exist and therefore this is not a material consideration."

Asian officer fights racist hate mail case

A SIKH police sergeant who received racist hate mail through the Metropolitan police internal post system was arrested after his superiors claimed he had sent the material to himself.

Gurpal Viri has been suspended for two weeks while a criminal investigation is carried out into allegations that he distributed racist material and attempted to pervert the course of justice.

The case has astonished other ethnic minorities officers and will need to be handled with the utmost sensitivity following Home Office evidence to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry on Friday that all police officers should be given training in race relations.

It was just before Christmas when Sgt Viri opened his internal mail to see not so much a wanted poster as an unwanted poster. A computer-generated image of a black man was accompanied by the message "Keep the Police Service White".

Similar material was sent to other non-white officers based at Ealing police station, west London. A month later, more racist material was received by black and Asian civilian work-

ers at Ealing and neighbouring stations. Friends of Viri's say that suspicion first fell on a white female officer who was informally interviewed but no further action was taken.

Then in April, as Sgt Viri was taking his children to the dentist, he realised he was being followed.

His wife Sath said: "He called me to come and collect the kids because he did not want them involved in any unpleasant scenes. Then he called his superiors."

Sgt Viri was told he was "paranoid" but when he went out to confront his pursuers, he was told they were from the Met police complaints unit and that he was under arrest.

Officers then carried out an eight-hour search of his house, confiscating his child's computer, his diary and press cuttings his wife had kept relating to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

Mrs Viri said: "They went through my personal things and even the shopping. It was so humiliating."

The following day, a story appeared in the Daily Mail saying



Gurpal Viri: suspended

an unnamed Asian police officer had been arrested for mounting a race hate campaign.

The paper reported that Met Commissioner Sir Paul Condon was furious about the campaign and noted that "the officer's arrest will come as a shock to anti-racism campaigners who claim the police service is riddled with white hogs."

It was claimed officers were investigating allegations that the hate mail was sent as a precursor to a claim against the police for racial discrimination.

Yesterday Mrs Viri said her husband vehemently denied having anything to do with the material and was still in a state of shock over his arrest.

She said he was a committed police officer with 18 years service who had not intended to retire for another 14 years.

Although he had not been planning a discrimination action when he received the hate mail, he has lodged a claim over the way the matter has been handled.

His submission also alleges that senior Met officers failed to register as a "racially-motivated crime" a serious stabbing of two Asian youths by white attackers in March. Sgt Viri, the arresting officer, was adamant that race was a factor but claims his views were ignored.

Sgt Viri, who is a school governor, also claims his requests for police visits to a largely Asian school were treated less favourably than requests for similar visits to mainly white schools.

He has been told that "forensic tests" are still being carried out in relation to the distribution of the hate mail and that he will be interviewed again in September. In the mean time, he remains suspended.

Gulf War veteran taunted

AN ASIAN veteran of the Gulf War who claims he was called a "Paki bastard" by his comrades and told he should have been fighting for Saddam Hussein, will today go before an industrial tribunal to try and win compensation from the Ministry of Defence.

Nasir Khan, a lance-bombardier with 12 Regiment Royal Artillery, was forced to survive on tins of peaches during military exercises because he was refused halal meat. When he complained he was allegedly told: "Change your religion you

Muslim w*****, and "bring some chapatis next time".

During the Gulf conflict - when he came under Iraqi fire - he was attached to the "desert rats", and, as a fluent speaker of Arabic, he was involved in intelligence and the interrogation of enemy prisoners.

Lt Bdr Khan's case is supported by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, his constituency MP in Blackburn. Mr Straw has asked John Reid, the armed forces minister, to investigate.

The case is the first example of a serving member of the armed forces taking action for race discrimination and comes as the services are engaged in a major drive to increase the numbers of ethnic minority recruits.

Lt Bdr Khan, 33, joined the Army as an infantry recruit at 22. While training he was assaulted by two other recruits, injuring his spine. Senior officers told him to ignore the incident.

After being posted to Germany, he claims he experienced constant racist abuse

from his fellow soldiers who taunted him by hiding his weapons.

During the Gulf War he was addressed by non-commissioned officers as a "raghead" and "stinking Muslim bastard".

When he applied to join the Ministry of Defence police, his application was torn up by his sergeant, who told him: "They don't take Pakis".

Since submitting a dossier of complaints, listing the incidents of racial abuse, he alleges he has become the subject of death threats.



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Cook tries to head off arms inquiry

STAFF FROM charities such as Amnesty International and Oxfam are to be drafted in to breathe new life into the Foreign Office in response to the Sierra Leone affair.

As Sir Thomas Legg publishes his report on the scandal today, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, will announce sweeping changes to his department.

Mr Cook asked Sir Thomas, a former civil servant, to find out whether officials colluded with a British firm of mercenaries, Sandline International, in shipping arms to Sierra Leone's exiled president.

SANDLINE

By FRANK ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, President Kabbah had Britain's support, but his regime was covered by a United Nations arms embargo. Foreign Office officials and the British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold, had meetings with Sandline.

The report is widely expected to pin most of the blame for the affair on officials rather than ministers, accepting ministers' insistence that they had "no knowledge or involvement"

in the supply of weapons to Sierra Leone.

Mr Cook, who has long been known to be frustrated by the stuffy atmosphere in the Foreign Office, apparently sees the crisis as a heaven-sent opportunity. As well as bringing in officers with expertise in different foreign affairs fields such as human rights, he will also expect civil servants to spend time working in non-governmental organisations or NGOs, as charities and aid agencies are known.

He told a private meeting of MPs earlier this month that the Foreign Office needed an ex-

change of ideas and people with the rest of Britain.

"We have improved the dialogue between the Foreign Office and NGOs - especially in the human rights field. But can we go further? We need to find ways of bringing more outsiders into the Foreign Office," he said.

Mr Cook plans to recruit an extra 200 staff for the Foreign Office in the wake of a 2 per cent funding rise in the Comprehensive Spending Review. That will take the department to its full complement of 5,700 and would ease the burden on overstretched departments.

With Sir John Kerr the Permanent Secretary to the department, the Foreign Secretary will create a new, flatter management structure that could help to prevent the breakdowns in communication which are believed to have led to the débâcle.

There will be a new unit for sanctions enforcement and other specialist teams, such as those working on human rights and the environment, could serve as models for future development. Mr Cook and Sir John also want to promote bright, young staff through fast-track promotion procedures.

Last night, senior Foreign Office staff, who took delivery of the report on Friday, were considering whether any civil servants should be suspended or disciplined immediately. If not, those criticised in the report are expected to be questioned by Sir John later in the week.

Those mentioned in the report, including Sandline, Mr Penfold and officials from the Foreign Office's Equatorial Africa Desk who met the firm, have seen the parts relating to themselves.

Foreign Office sources said there was "no complacency" about the report. Ministers

were "confident that Robin Cook has been right all along to say that there was no ministerial knowledge of or involvement in the events that led to this. But to say that ministers are all confident of a clean bill of health is too over-confident, a bit too complacent ahead of the event."

The Conservatives' foreign affairs spokesman, Michael Howard, will have six hours to read the report before it is published in the House of Commons at 3.30pm.

Mr Howard said last night that the inquiry had been too narrow, and should have been

presided over by a judge. "I think the thing that would do most good at the Foreign Office would be to have a Foreign Secretary who finished his paperwork and who was a bit more interested in the Foreign Office and foreign affairs than the present incumbent," he said.

Although the Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd has been widely criticised for not reacting more quickly to newspaper reports of the sanctions breach and officials' involvement in it, it is understood no new evidence has come to light to suggest that he knew about the affair.

Hague to rebut Thatcher on society

NEW CONSERVATISM
By FRANK ABRAMS

MARGARET THATCHER got it wrong. The Conservatives believe there is such a thing as society, after all.

William Hague, the present Tory Party leader, will make the pronouncement today in a speech to a London-based think-tank, Politika.

Baroness Thatcher once told *Woman's Own* magazine: "There is no such thing as society. There are individual men and women, and there are families. And no government can do anything except through people, and people must look to themselves first."

Today Mr Hague will declare: "I do believe that there is such a thing as society." But mindful that his mighty fore-



Baroness Thatcher: "No such thing as society"

bear is still watching over him, he will argue that she thought so too.

Mr Hague will argue that when she made her comments, Lady Thatcher was criticising people who failed to take responsibility for their own actions rather than saying her philosophy was one of every man for himself.

"Every authentic Conservative, including of course Margaret Thatcher herself, knows that there is more to life than that."

"We cannot even describe what it is to be an individual, the

individual whose freedom lies at the heart of Conservatism, unless we can describe the history, the language, the culture, the family which has shaped every one of us."

"And from that description of who we are there follow obligations to others, obligations that come from being a son or daughter, husband or wife, employee or employer, neighbour or friend, or simply citizen," he will say.

Lady Thatcher prefaced her famous remark by accusing people of always expecting the government to help them out when they were in trouble.

"I have a problem, I'll get a grant. I'm homeless, the government must house me. They're casting their problem on society," she said.

Despite his rejection of what many see as the central tenet of Thatcherism, Mr Hague will warn against "sliding down the slippery slope which ends up with warm Blairite gush about community."

The essential difference between the Conservatives and New Labour should be the Conservatives' wariness of "big government", he will say.

"We need to be ever vigilant to make sure that in its drive for efficiency and control, our army of civil servants do not march over the little platoons. One of the most powerful critiques of Conservative governments in the 1980s and 1990s was that we allowed just that to happen."

New Conservative policies must find ways of devolving power down to local institutions, to doctors, nurses and teachers, he will say. The new Conservative will draw on tradition while championing innovation. "Such policies will form part of a fresh Conservative agenda. An agenda that dispels the myth that Conservatives are only able to speak convincingly about money and how to make it. An agenda that draws on our great tradition of marrying community with individual responsibility."



Martin Bell yesterday at a political gathering he described as more party than conference

David Kendall

Bell throws a party and regrets his promise to quit at the next election

WITH A bead count of one, his party lacks the delegates to merit a full-scale political conference at a seaside resort.

Instead, Martin Bell, the war correspondent turned independent MP for Tatton, chose a white tent in a country field as the venue for a gathering of constituency faithfuls yesterday.

The 59-year-old politician, known for his anti-sleaze election campaign and the white suit that has become his trademark, held the lunch party to thank about a hundred friends and supporters in the village of Mere, Cheshire.

Unlike those attending rival

gatherings in Blackpool or Brighton, Mr Bell did not dwell on policy or manifesto; speeches were over in six minutes.

"We thought of having it at the seaside, but the weather's better here," he said afterwards. "It was all party and no conference. There were no resolutions, no policy statements and no major speeches."

Looking back on his year in the House of Commons he said: "I think my greatest achievement has been staying in the political game and not appear-

ing on the front page of the Sun."

Mr Bell was joined by his new wife, Fiona Goddard, 32, in her second public outing since the couple married in secret 10 days ago.

She too wore white and was accompanied by Mr Bell's daughter Melissa, her husband Peter Bracken and local representatives from all three mainstream parties.

As a result the emphasis was on revelry rather than rivalry. Guests mingled in a marquee decorated with streamers and balloons, and were serenaded by a string quartet while wait-

resses served canapés and Australian wine as a precursor to the buffet lunch.

During his brief speech, Mr Bell reiterated his pledge to stand down at the next election and expressed his regret over it. He told *The Independent*: "It's only for one term of Parliament and when it's over the coach turns back into a pumpkin."

"I follow the Eric Cantona rule of politics, which is to quit while you are ahead. I'm under a certain amount of pressure to stand again but I can't do it without breaking a promise. I regret making it but I made

it, so I have to live with it," Mrs Bell, however, may feel less regretful over the promise after her first full weekend of constituency engagements, including the Lower Peover gooseberry show on Saturday.

The couple's honeymoon, already set back because of constituency commitments, is to be postponed still further as Mr Bell was due to fly to Burundi last night with two Labour MPs on a Unicef-sponsored trip. He is to undergo hip surgery on his return next week.

The MP described his wife as "very understanding" shortly after their wedding.

Mandelson aims to delay 48-hour work law

UNDER STRONG pressure from employers, Downing Street is making an 11th hour attempt to delay the introduction of the European working time directive.

The regulations, which bring in a 48-hour weekly limit, are due for introduction on 1 October, but employers' organisations have warned the Government that many companies will be unable to meet the deadline. Effectively it means that businesses will be

BY BARRY CLEMENT
Labour Editor

in breach of the law and could face civil action from unions.

The Department of Trade and Industry, however, is determined to lay the necessary regulations before Parliament ahead of the recess, so that the law on working time will be in place before MPs return on 19 October.

Some employers argue the implementation date should be

delayed until April when the £3.60 minimum wage will be introduced. Senior managers believe that one set of company records could then be introduced to cope with both pieces of employment legislation.

Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, and his allies in the Downing Street Policy Unit, however, are arguing for a postponement until 1 January - a date the Confederation of British Industry believes is the earliest practical time for

companies to be ready. Ministers at the DTI believe they will get their way, but other senior sources close to the Department are concerned over Downing Street's reluctance to give the go-ahead for the regulations to be laid in time. The sources have told union officials that Downing Street is fighting a rearguard action in favour of 1 January.

The clash of opinions is yet another example of the uncomfortable relationship be-

tween Number 10 and the industry department. Officials at the CBI are keen to keep the pressure on the Government, partly in recognition that their organisation has taken a decisive turn to the right with the appointment of Sir Clive Thompson, chairman of Rentokil, as president.

Jonathan Edwards, senior adviser on employee relations at the CBI, said that it was a "major piece of work" for employers to prepare for the law

and that an extra three months would make a critical difference. "Companies will have to review their hours of work to make sure they comply and change shift patterns if necessary. In reality that is not going to happen by October in a lot of companies."

He conceded that businesses had been aware for some time that the law was to be imposed, but he argued that they were unable to prepare because they had seen only draft

regulations. The British Retail Consortium, which covers 90 per cent of the retail trade, has protested to the Government over its "over-hasty" implementation of the directive, which would add to the costs of UK business.

The Consortium pointed out that the Government's own Better Regulation Task Force had stated that it was "simply impractical" for most firms to gear up for the new regulations by October.

ON SATURDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 25/7/98. The winning numbers: 18, 25, 36, 38, 43, 44. Bonus number: 19.
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CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	4	£2,016,209	£8,064,836
Match 5 plus bonus ball	17	£145,969	£2,481,473
Match 5	781	£1,985	£1,550,285
Match 4	50,052	£68	£3,403,536
Match 3	976,658	£10	£9,766,580
TOTALS	1,027,512		£25,286,710

Net Sales excluding Brackets and Wednesday Draw: £28,815,395.
Total week's contribution to Good Causes: £25,600,000.
Breakdown figures rounded down to nearest 1p. £9.17s
© Camelot Group plc. Players must be 16 or over.

Brown urged to increase taxes on the rich

GORDON BROWN was yesterday urged by two senior Labour figures to tax the rich as an escape route from recession.

TUC president John Edmonds and former Labour chancellor Denis Healey called for action to curb pay packets that exceed £1,000 a week and

inflation and interest rates. He said that Mr Brown must consider "significant increases in taxation on higher salaries".

He also urged union leaders to avoid wage demands which could leave their members being paid in "confetti money". Mr Edmonds joined the attack

on boardroom pay. "People who earn more than £1,000 a week should be paying more. Gordon Brown should say if you are going to take these vast sums of money while at the same time controlling the pay of the rest of the population then you have got to pay more taxes."

He also urged union leaders to avoid wage demands which could leave their members being paid in "confetti money". Mr Edmonds joined the attack

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In death as in life, few can agree on Tiny

TINY ROWLAND, the controversial millionaire businessman whose death was revealed yesterday, was the last of a generation of flamboyant tycoons, friends and associates said.

Tributes to the man, described by Sir Edward Heath in 1973 as the "unacceptable face of capitalism", came yesterday from the South African President, Nelson Mandela, and the former Zambian president, Kenneth Kaunda. Both spoke of his contribution to Africa.

Mr Mandela, who awarded Mr Rowland the country's highest honour, the Order of Good Hope Class 111, said he was shocked and saddened by news of his death on Friday.

"He made an enormous contribution, not only to South Africa but to the whole of Africa," he said. "He was a tremendous friend to the whole country. He also enjoyed a very warm relationship with Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC. We will remember him as a long-standing friend in the struggle against apartheid."

Mr Rowland, 80, the former head of Lonrho and one-time owner of the Observer, died from skin cancer. His wife Josie and four children were with him when he died at the London Clinic. He had been at the private hospital for several days, having flown in secretly by air ambulance from his yacht, *Hansa*, on the Mediterranean. A family spokeswoman said yesterday: "The family are still working out details for the funeral. At this point they simply want to be left alone."

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

Mr Rowland, a self-styled revolutionary capitalist, was to the end a controversial figure who divided opinion. Yesterday his detractors spoke of a mean-spirited man who put himself first and cared little about hurting people. Friends recalled a courteous man, charming and always good company.

"I remember being on his yacht in the Mediterranean with him once," said Donald Treford, editor of the Observer during Mr Rowland's 12-year proprietorship.

"There would be the most fantastic scenery but he would simply ignore it and would stand staring at the phone, waiting for it to ring. When it did ring it would always be Nelson Mandela, the president of Kenya, the head of Mossad or someone like that. He was the centre of this most amazing international network. He also had great personal charm and old-world courtesy. He had fantastic manners and a continuous stream of amazing stories."

Mr Treford was involved in one of Mr Rowland's most controversial episodes - his attempt to win control of Harrods, and his subsequent campaign against his one-time associate, Mohamed Al Fayed.

After failing to win the store, the Observer brought out a raid-week edition - for the only time in its 207-year history - to publish details of a confidential Department of Trade Inspector's inquiry into Mr Fayed's acquisition of the store. Mr



Clockwise (from top): Tiny Rowland after losing the fight for Lonrho in 1995; the tycoon relaxing in the sun in 1973, out with his wife Josie in 1988; and a public truce with Mohamed Al Fayed in 1993



Treford yesterday defended the decision to bring out the edition and said it had been made on journalistic grounds. He denied that Mr Rowland had brought pressure to bear.

He said that the obsession with Mr Fayed persisted and was a reason behind his eventual departure from the helm of Lonrho. "He became obsessed with his feud against Fayed and this began to distort his business judgement."

This obsession continued to the end of his life, despite an apparent truce-signing between the two men in 1993. Last April,

Mr Rowland accused Mr Fayed of offering him a £10m bribe to lie to a parliamentary select committee in support of the Harrods owner's bribery allegations against Michael Howard, the former Tory home secretary.

Last week, the Metropolitan Police announced that Mr Fayed would not face charges over Mr Rowland's claim that the contents of his Harrods safe deposit boxes had been stolen.

Last night, Mr Fayed said: "Tiny Rowland and I were business rivals for many years but I take no joy in his death. I am sending my condolences to his

widow and family." Mr Rowland, who is estimated to have left a fortune of £150m, made his money by turning Lonrho, an unprofitable mining and ranching company based in Zimbabwe, into an international conglomerate with more than 1,000 subsidiaries in 60 countries.

Associates said that in Africa he was treated like a deity who never required a passport because of the way he helped to develop the economies of many newly independent nations.

Mr Kaunda said Mr Rowland "was a man full of compassion. He had a love for fellow human

beings. We worked together to empower Africans economically since the Seventies. He is a great loss to us."

Despite what he did for Lonrho, Mr Rowland was removed from the company in 1995 after a power struggle between him and Dieter Bock, an equally adventurous businessman the tycoon had himself installed to help the company.

Nicholas Morrell, vice-president of Lonrho, said: "We've been fighting Rowland for over five years now, but *de mortuis nil nisi bonum* - of the dead speak nothing but good."



The Impulse advert portraying two gay men which was cleared by the watchdog

Gay ad complaints rejected

THE TELEVISION industry watchdog has cleared the way for more adverts that use gay themes and images after throwing out complaints about an Impulse ad.

The Independent Television Commission rejected complaints by 29 viewers who objected to an Impulse Body Spray advert that showed a woman being attracted to a man, and then the man going off arm in arm with his boyfriend.

Most complainants said they objected to the portrayal of homosexuality in advertising or said that it had been shown too

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

early. However, the watchdog's monthly advertising complaints report said: "The ITC does not have a policy of forbidding homosexual references in advertising. The advert was cleared with the restriction that it should not be shown before 7.30pm. Having regard to the nature of the content, the ITC did not consider that a further timing restriction was warranted."

The ITC's decision reflects the very small number of people who are now offended by

representations of homosexuality. Research by the Advertising Standards Authority, which regulates non-television advertising, has found that only nine per cent of respondents would be "irritated or annoyed" by an ad that showed gays or lesbians.

However, when the authority showed people in its survey an advert that portrayed a lesbian kiss, 40 per cent of the survey group said they were offended by it.

In marked contrast to the Impulse complaints, the latest advertising complaints report showed that 116 people con-

tacted the ITC about the innuendo in a Lucozade Low Calorie advert. This showed the comic characters "The Fat Slags" visiting a male strip show where a man used a Lucozade bottle to cover his genitalia. In one scene the stripper patted his stomach, saying Lucozade "helps me stay firm where it counts".

The high number of complainants almost all objected to the sexual innuendo in the advert, although two protested that the cartoon characters were offensive to overweight women.

The ASA found that 71 per cent of respondents were offended by the way women were portrayed as sex objects in advertising generally. What is new is the extent to which men are also now portrayed as sex objects, and 53 per cent in the authority's study found that offensive. The number of people finding the representation of men and women offensive has grown over 12 months, implying a return to the kind of sexist advertising of the past.

The ITC rejected complaints against the stripper advert, but upheld complaints against another Lucozade advert in which a character swore.

Hard-up BBC hires out studios for bit of a do

THE CLICHE: "available for weddings, birthdays and bar mitzvahs" is more usually applied to washed-up entertainers. Now, because of the BBC's need to make money, it can be applied to the corporation's television studios.

The BBC in Manchester has taken a booking to hold a bar mitzvah party in its studio A in November. The Jewish coming of age celebration was booked by a teenage boy's father after he attended another function held in the studio earlier this year.

More normally home to *A Question of Sport* and the *Mrs Merton Show*, studio A will now be made kosher so that food can be served to a party of several hundred.

The bar mitzvah ceremony itself will be held in a Manchester synagogue, but the party afterwards will move to the BBC's Oxford Road studios.

Studio A is not completely alien to large family gatherings as it is the place where *This Is Your Life* is filmed when the star is from the north of England.

BY PAUL MCCANN

Sources inside the BBC say that the increasing commercialisation of the BBC Resources department, which manages studios and equipment, means many BBC producers are baulking at the prices being charged to use the corporation's facilities.

Under a scheme called "Producer Choice", an internal market operates at the BBC that makes programme-makers pay for use of facilities, libraries and equipment.

Insiders say that means many studios are lying empty while BBC productions are made in the cheaper studios of commercial rivals. Rather than have the studios empty BBC Resources is encouraging studio managers to rent them out as function suites.

A BBC spokeswoman yesterday said the policy of using studios for non-broadcast purposes had been going on for some time. "This is not novel, although I cannot say if there has been another bar mitzvah. We offer our studios on a

marginal capacity basis for non-broadcast use. Internal charging has been the norm at the BBC for some time and we have been able to use studios for non-broadcast use whenever they are spare."

BBC Resources was given permission in June by Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, to become BBC Resources Ltd, a wholly separate subsidiary of the BBC operating in the commercial market.

BBC unions have warned that it could lead to privatisation and expect the division to increase its efforts to make money out of BBC facilities.

The BBC's internal market has thrown up other anomalies. BBC staff attacked the system last year when the libraries department started charging programme-makers to borrow archive material and CDs. Some complained that it worked out cheaper for a news programme trying to use a piece of music to buy the CD from a high street record store than borrow it from a BBC library.

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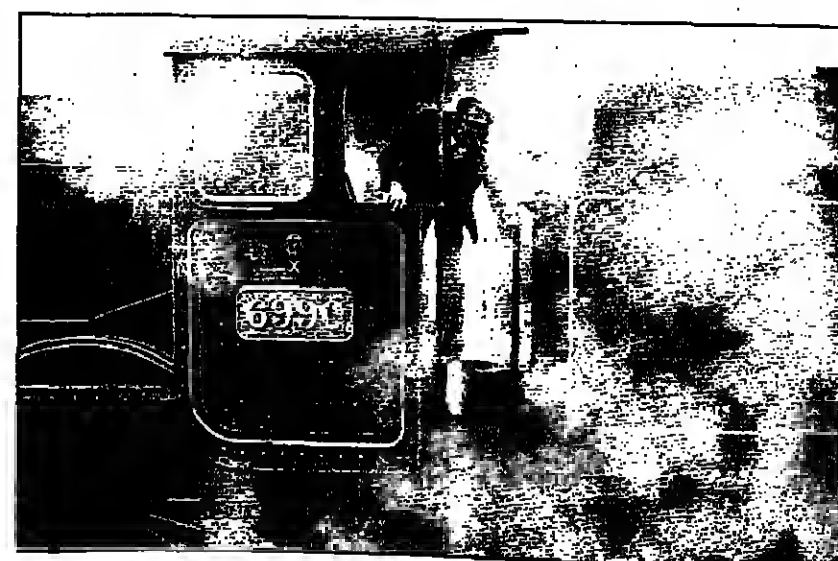
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Police investigate 5 hospital deaths

POLICE ARE investigating several suspicious deaths at an NHS hospital where there have been allegations of misuse of drugs, indecency and assault. An experienced male nurse from the hospital has been suspended while police investigate the allegations, first made six weeks ago. The investigation is one of the biggest of its kind since nurse Beverly Allitt from Grantham, Lincolnshire,

was convicted of murdering four children and attempting to kill 13 others in 1991. Unconfirmed reports yesterday said police are investigating five suspicious deaths at Birch Hill Hospital at Rochdale, Greater Manchester. The hospital has confirmed the investigation is underway but has refused to confirm the number

of deaths being investigated. Robert Clegg, chief executive of Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust, said yesterday that any suspicious deaths would have been reported to the coroner, and that there had been no such referrals. "Furthermore, no members of my medical staff have come forward and said, 'Christ, my patients have died, what is happening?'," he said.

"It has been suggested that there may have been inappropriate use of drugs which possibly resulted in the death of a patient or patients but no numbers were mentioned to me." The police investigation is on the medical admissions unit at Birch Hill, where the nurse has worked for many years. The allegations first came to light after a male patient made a complaint of sexual assault

against the nurse in January 1997. The nurse was suspended, disciplined and reinstated but staff passed other concerns to hospital management about his conduct and he was suspended again last month. The 12-officer investigation team is believed to have already questioned up to 70 members of the nursing staff. Detectives are examining all patient records and want a toxicology

expert to examine drugs given to living patients treated by the suspended nurse. However, the nurse has not yet been interviewed nor made aware of the allegations. "The police have not yet spoken to him. He says he has only ever acted properly," said a spokeswoman for the Royal College of Nursing, of which the nurse is a member. "Our concern is to make sure that our members

get a fair hearing but also that we look after the quality of patient care. If there are any issues over patient care there has to be an investigation and that is what's happening." Greater Manchester Police, which is carrying out the inquiry, said yesterday in a statement: "This inquiry has now become a three-fold investigation involving allegations of indecency, assault and misuse of

drugs and where concern has been shown over the deaths of some patients." A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said Health Secretary Frank Dobson was being personally updated on the progress of the investigation on a regular basis. "We will wait for the investigation to be completed before considering its findings and deciding whether we need to act," she said.

Core values: Tory MP wants 'visible leadership' on wards while bobbies find two-wheels are faster at getting to crime scenes

Bring back matron, demands Widdecombe

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

THE SPECTRE of Hattie Jacques marching around hospital wards complete with her enema tube, was raised yesterday when a call was made to reinstate matrons. Ann Widdecombe, the Tory health spokeswoman, said that scrapping the post of matron had been a great mistake and should be overturned. She said they could provide much-needed leadership on hospital wards. The post of matron, portrayed by the late Miss Jacques in the *Carry On* films, was phased out more than a decade ago. During the Fifties and Sixties matrons had a great deal of responsibility for organising care in hospitals. Questioned over hospital safety on GMTV's *Sunday* programme, Ms Widdecombe said: "Clearly safety in the hospitals is important, and one of the things we need to see is a lot more leadership actually on the wards. This is something

the nurses are telling me. They want to see more visible leadership. I think a great mistake was made a long time ago in actually deciding to get rid of matron because of what she represented. "And what she represented was visible leadership of the nurses and visible advocacy for the nurses. Those are two things which I think the nurses feel at the moment they don't have and certainly don't have in combination." Ms Widdecombe said she was more interested in reviving the leadership skills provided by matrons as much as the actual post. Her proposals yesterday received backing from the Royal College of Nursing, which said it would support reviving the best elements of the matron system. But a Department of Health spokeswoman said the traditional role of the matron had now been taken over by nurses covering an even wider range of responsibilities.

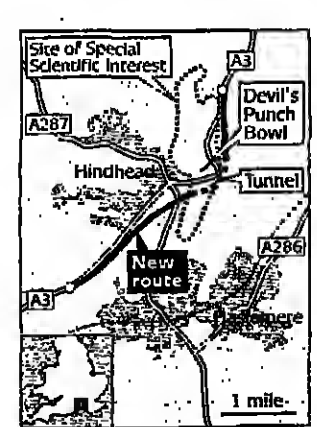


Kenneth Williams and Hattie Jacques, who portrayed the stern but likeable matron, in a scene from the 1968 film 'Carry on Doctor'

Police to get on their bikes

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

STRATHCLYDE POLICE are to become the first British force to use bicycles rather than cars for rapid response units. While the mountain bikes will not replace motorised vehicles entirely, they will be used to patrol urban areas clogged with traffic. Chief Constable John Orr said the force was attracted to the idea after a study showed using bicycles improved response times. Their research found that delays in reaching crime scenes within the time limits that have been set by the Home Office were frequently caused by traffic jams in city and town centres. "We decided to undergo a trial of bikes in some areas and we found that they were a lot faster than high speed response vehicles," said Mr Orr. "Congestion often causes our officers delays and it is obviously important to be at the scene of a crime as quickly as possible. "This is the ideal way forward to bridge the gap between foot and mobile patrols."



Prescott to approve bus lanes for a widened M25

BUS LANES on the infamous M25 and tolls on drivers to finance a road tunnel will be announced tomorrow in the Government's roads review. The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions will give the go-ahead for a plan to widen the M25 - a week after the White Paper effectively hailed the end of road building as a solution to the

transport crisis. A move to widen the 12-mile stretch between the M4 and M3 has been heavily opposed by environmentalists and was denounced as "motorway madness" by the Labour Party while it was in opposition. John Prescott, the Deputy

Prime Minister, is expected to announce that the extra lanes will be reserved for buses, coaches and cars carrying passengers. He will also say that proposals to spend £1bn on widening much of the M1 and M5 have been abandoned. Under another plan, tolls could be imposed to finance an £80m tunnel under the Devil's Punch Bowl in Surrey, heath-

land that is home to some of Britain's rarest birds and plants. At present the A3, which links London and Portsmouth, cuts through the Bowl - designated by the Government as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The existing road means the town of Hindhead is clogged with traffic during most of the day. Under the new scheme, a

four-mile bypass will carry traffic around Hindhead and under the Bowl. However, with construction costs estimated at £20m a mile the scheme was considered too expensive to be funded by the public purse and civil servants have advised that the only alternative is to charge motorists. The move has split the environmental movement. "The

alternatives were much worse and we have to be realistic," said Roger Higman, transport spokesman for Friends of the Earth. "This is the best way of dealing with a sensitive rural area's concerns." However, other green campaigners say that the tunnel will spoil the stunning landscape. Charging motorists is seen by many as the only way to improve

transport links. Richard Diment of the British Road Federation said: "The Chancellor announced a £400m increase for road maintenance and building for the next three years. But for the next 12 months we already have £500m to spend and that will not go far when you consider that widening the M25 under the current government plans costs more than £200m."

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Clinton subpoena: White House nervously waits to hear just what evidence will be presented in the Lewinsky case

How Starr cornered the President

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

THE NEWS seeped out slowly, to the point where it almost seemed no news at all. Late on Saturday the office of the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, confirmed it had delivered a subpoena - an obligatory court summons - to force President Bill Clinton to testify in the Monica Lewinsky case.

William Jefferson Clinton had become the first president of the United States to be subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury. Confirmation that he had been subpoenaed, a word with great resonance for Americans brought up on television court dramas and the subpoenaed tapes that broke Richard Nixon's presidency, came at the end of a day dominated by the aftermath of the killings at the Capitol.

The timing led some Clinton opponents to speculate about news management. The subpoena, they said, had been served days earlier: the shootings at the Capitol provided the White House with an opportunity to release the news with minimal media impact. True or not, US television, radio and the main Internet news services all subordinated it to the killings at the Capitol. The bloodshed served to obscure the fact that the previous two weeks had been full of developments that led logically to the questioning of the President in the Lewinsky investigation.

The Administration fought, and lost, the battle to have the President's bodyguards and Secret Service agents exempted from testifying.

Three agents testified 10 days ago. Last Tuesday Mr Clinton's chief bodyguard, Larry Cockell, testified to the grand jury. Linda Tripp, who secretly taped Ms Lewinsky's confessions of her alleged affair with the President, continued to testify, and Mr Clinton's secretary, Betty Currie, was recalled for an additional - and apparently final - day of testimony.

On Thursday lawyers for the President and members of Mr Starr's team were closeted with the judge in the case, reportedly discussing White House complaints about earlier "leaks" presumed to have come from the Starr camp.

Then on Friday the White House confirmed Mr Clinton's lawyers were talking to Mr Starr and his staff about the possibility of the President giving evidence. However, the word "subpoena" was not mentioned, even though it now transpires that the subpoena had already been served.

Washington lawyers saw the



President Bill Clinton looking shaken by events in Washington as he waits with officers from the aircraft-carrier Harry S Truman before taking the podium as the principal speaker at the ship's commissioning ceremony in Norfolk, Virginia

conjunction of the legal discussions last week and the disclosure of the subpoena as evidence that Mr Starr was not satisfied with the response from the White House. Why try to force the President to testify if he appeared ready to co-operate with the investigation, the argument went.

Mr Starr is trying to establish whether Mr Clinton had an affair with Ms Lewinsky when she was a 21-year-old trainee at the White House, denied it under oath, and then put pressure on her or induced her (by arranging job opportunities elsewhere) to deny it.

Mr Clinton has denied having an affair with Ms Lewinsky, first under oath - when he

gave evidence in the sexual-harassment suit brought by Paula Jones - and then, after details emerged of what Ms Tripp had on tape, for the benefit of television interviewers and reporters. Ms Lewinsky has also denied an affair.

The contradiction between Ms Lewinsky's words on tape and her subsequent denial was Mr Starr's way in to the case. If Ms Lewinsky was lying, or fantasising, on tape, which some claim, he has no case. If he can demonstrate that there was an affair and Mr Clinton encouraged Ms Lewinsky to lie about it, both could be charged with perjury. Mr Clinton could then be charged with attempting to obstruct the course of

justice. That could expose him to the risk of impeachment.

Mr Starr was authorised to open a grand jury investigation, a preliminary stage to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to bring charges, six months ago, after Ms Tripp revealed the existence of her tape recordings. His decision to force Mr Clinton to testify suggests one of two things. One is that the investigation has turned up insufficient evidence and Mr Clinton's testimony is a last resort. The second is that there is third-party evidence that must be put to the President. The dilemma for the Clinton camp is that they have no means of knowing whether Mr Starr does or does not already

have evidence of a crime before they decide how to proceed.

Mr Clinton's lawyers are in talks with the Starr team. This indicates that the President is reluctant to contest the subpoena outright. At best, such a course would be politically risky; at worst, it could be judicial suicide. To contest the subpoena would raise doubts in the mind of a US public that has so far been charitably inclined towards the President. Legal and constitutional experts in Washington yesterday concurred that if he were to challenge the subpoena, he might buy some time as the challenge worked its way through the courts, but he could lose.

Such a case would set the

executive against the judicial branch of power. One lawyer argued yesterday that for a president to be obliged to answer a subpoena could "mean that one branch can utterly disable the executive branch" and that would be unacceptable, "not to protect the President, but to protect the democratic process". Most agreed with Jonathan Turley, a George Washington University professor, that he was being subpoenaed "not as president, but as a citizen", and would be in contempt of court if he refused. For a president to be in contempt could expose him to the risk of impeachment.

Speculation about the subject of talks between the Pres-

ident's lawyers and Mr Starr centres on the terms he might be demanding. The solution favoured by the White House would allow Mr Clinton to be questioned, with his lawyer, at an agreed venue, either at the White House or - as in the Paula Jones case - at the offices of his lawyer.

Another possibility would be that Mr Clinton might agree to appear before the grand jury but would insist that questioning avoid his personal life.

His personal life, in terms of his relationship with Ms Lewinsky, however, is at the heart of the case, and any agreement by Mr Starr to restrict his testimony in this way was judged unlikely.

THE NEXT MOVE

OPTION ONE

The President agrees to comply with the subpoena without conditions and testify before a grand jury. He might repeat his denial of an affair, but will want to be sure there is no evidence to contradict his denial.

OPTION TWO

He does a deal with the independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr. Under the deal he agrees to testify, but only under certain conditions. He might stipulate, for instance, that questions do not touch on his sex life, but only on the obstruction of justice charge: ie whether he induced, or put pressure on Monica Lewinsky to deny having an affair.

OPTION THREE

He does a deal whereby he is allowed to answer questions under oath at his lawyer's office or at the White House on video. As a result, the subpoena is withdrawn.

OPTION FOUR

The President refuses to testify. This is the riskiest strategy. He exposes himself to charge of contempt of court and precipitates a judicial and constitutional fight about the privileges of the presidency. Legal opinion suggests he would lose.

US abandons hope of seizing Bosnia's worst war criminals

FOR THREE years the Western powers have proclaimed the imminent arrest of Bosnia's two most wanted alleged war criminals, the Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his commander in the 1992-5 Bosnian conflict, Ratko Mladic.

Now, according to yesterday's *New York Times*, the United States has dropped plans to arrest the two men in their eastern Bosnian hide-out.

Quoting senior administration officials, the newspaper said that the US - the country that has most strongly supported the need to arrest alleged war criminals - had spent more than two years and "tens of millions of dollars" preparing training commandos and gathering intelligence for missions to arrest the two former Bosnian Serb supremos.

BY MARCUS TANNER

Karadzic and Mladic were in charge of the Bosnia Serb war effort directed against the newly independent country's Muslim-led government. Their campaigns saw the "ethnic cleansing" of hundreds of thousands of Bosnian Muslims. They were indicted three years ago by the UN war crimes Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, based in The Hague.

The idea for the secret missions to arrest the Serb warlords was developed, the newspaper said, by a cell of American and Nato military officers, code-named Amber Star.

At one point last summer it seemed close to success. US special operations soldiers were sent to Germany on the first leg of a mission to "swoop"



Radovan Karadzic was indicted three years ago

on Karadzic, who spends most of his time in the ski resort of Pale in Serb-held eastern Bosnia. The plan fell apart. Some American officials privately accused the French of leaking plans about the military operation to the Serb leader.

The decision to abandon plans to arrest Karadzic and Mladic appears to be the result of diminishing public interest in Bosnia, France's continuing reluctance to help any such operation and fears of losses among American officers.

The French command the Nato troops patrolling the town of Pale, where Karadzic is now believed to reside, so their support would have been vital.

US officers also have voiced fears that the arrest of the two men could be a bloody affair.

The report of America's about-turn will further subvert the work of the UN war crimes tribunal in the Hague. Some suspects have been banded over to the court recently. But the court's efforts will appear pointless if the two most crucial figures in Bosnia's carnage are, in fact, to be left in peace.

Serbs leave a trail of blood after five-day fight for town

THE STORIES spread like a fire. Serb forces gouged eyes, burned Albanian civilians alive, beat them, shot them, slit their throats and cut the Serbian cross into their victims' flesh.

These are survivors' tales from last week's battle for Oranov, one of the most vicious in the five-month war in Serb-ruled Kosovo province. How many people died in the battle for the town, 35 miles south west of the province's capital, Pristina, may never be clear. The Western media and outside observers were not present.

Albanian leaders put the civilian death toll at about 120. Local accounts would make it many times that. The Serbs for their part speak of atrocities by the Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) against their people. What is indisputable is that the Serbs won, driving the

BY ANNE THOMPSON
in Astrakhan

KLA into villages in the surrounding hills. The fight has created some 20,000 ethnic Albanian refugees, many of them living with illness and fifth and without medicine or electricity.

In the village of Astrakhan, a doctor is working by candlelight in an abandoned school to treat a stream of patients. "The Red Cross hasn't been here and we have nothing. We have an epidemic of diarrhoea, and children are going to die," he said.

People speak of the atrocities they saw or heard about in the five days of fighting that ended on Tuesday. One man said he saw the Serb police stab his neighbour and carve the Serb symbol on his face.

The ethnic Albanian Committee for the Defence of



Human Rights and Freedoms named 43 people killed in the fighting in Oranov, but said this was only a preliminary list and more were still missing.

The Serbs reported further advances yesterday against the KLA, reportedly driving them from the villages of Barja and Zociste and clearing barricades from the strategic road linking

Pristina and the second-largest town, Pec. The Serbian Media Centre conceded that "armed Albanians are giving strong resistance". Government troops were said to be using 50 to 60 tanks.

In Pristina, the moderate ethnic Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova urged the world to force the Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to end the fight. "We call on the United States, Nato, the United Nations and European Union to urgently put pressure and take decisive steps against Belgrade to stop the offensive."

The appeal came as the West appeared to have forgotten earlier warnings to Mr Milosevic of military intervention in Kosovo should Belgrade fail to curb its use of force.

Leading article, Review, page three

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President Nelson Mandela (left) thanking singer Stevie Wonder for a song at a concert in honour of Mr Mandela's birthday, in Johannesburg at the weekend. The South African President was 80 on 18 July, on which day he married Graca Machel
Walter Dhladhla/AFP

Mercy killer tests limit of French law

IN FRANCE'S most dramatic case of euthanasia, officials say they are considering murder charges against a nurse who has admitted she helped about 30 terminally ill cancer patients to die.

But the case has drawn sympathy from France's health minister and is likely to reopen a debate over whether France should join the Netherlands in decriminalising the practice.

The choice of the charge against the nurse is the result of the absence of any option of euthanasia in the French penal code, even though there appears to be little doubt that the nurse's only intention was to end the suffering of patients in her care. According to judicial sources, most of the dead patients were between 70 and 90 years old and in the terminal stages of cancer. The nurse acted at the request either of their families or of the patients themselves but also, in some instances, on her own authority.

By ANDREW SPURRIER
in Paris

oath of the charge against her, however, she has remained free, although under judicial supervision.

The deaths are understood to have happened over a period of 18 months in the oncology and pneumonology service of the Francois-Quesnay Hospital at Mantes-la-Jolie on the western edge of the Paris region.

They came to light after the health authorities discovered "anomalies" in mortality statistics and ordered an internal inquiry, although one report said that several of the nurse's colleagues suspected her of practising euthanasia.

Ms Malevre, who had been in her job since 1995 and had been given excellent reports by her superiors, at first denied any misconduct. Later she admitted to police she had "voluntarily ended the sufferings" of certain patients. She was finally charged on 8 July, though the affair came to light only at the weekend. No information has been released as to the methods she used to help her

patients to die, although some medical products are reported to have disappeared in the service where she worked.

The state of official confusion in France over euthanasia was shown in the statements of the Versailles prosecutor's office. "This woman acted neither for money nor in her own interests nor at the request of any association," an official said. "She cannot be compared to these criminal and sadistic nurses who sometimes make the headlines."

The revelation of the affair also drew a compassionate - though inconclusive - response from the French minister for health, Bernard Kouchner, founder of the humanitarian organisation, Medecins du Monde.

"I would not want this nurse to feel alone as her patients must have felt alone," he told the newspaper *Le Monde*. "We must above all avoid any hasty moral judgement." But he did not exonerate the nurse and did not make clear what course he thought the government should take in this or other cases related to alleviating the suffering of the terminally ill.

Benazir risks jail over £2m 'kickback'

FRENZIED supporters of Benazir Bhutto packed Karachi airport yesterday to welcome Pakistan's former prime minister back home, where she faces corruption charges that could result in her imprisonment and exclusion from political life.

Ms Bhutto is to appear today before a special bench of the Lahore High Court. There, she will be charged with taking kick-backs worth more than £2m on a deal to buy tractors when she was in power two years ago.

Reports of her imminent detention intensified after Pakistan's newspapers quoted a cabinet minister as saying the government of the current Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, had made up its mind to arrest her on her return home.

The Supreme Court said at the weekend that the government could not arrest her until she appears in court in Lahore.

In spite of an outstanding arrest warrant that was personally approved by Mr Sharif, her homecoming is seen - at least by her supporters - as the first step in a political comeback.

Ms Bhutto, 46, was removed from office in November 1996 amid accusations of corruption and gross economic mismanagement. Her first administration ended with a similar dismissal in 1990.

Chanting slogans, around 4,000 supporters met Ms Bhutto when she arrived early yesterday on a flight from Dubai, where she had been visiting her children. She caught a connecting flight on to the north-western city of Lahore, where she will be joined in court by her husband Asif Ali Zardari.

BY JASON BURKE
in Karachi



Benazir Bhutto denies fraud allegations Reuters

terday on a flight from Dubai, where she had been visiting her children. She caught a connecting flight on to the north-western city of Lahore, where she will be joined in court by her husband Asif Ali Zardari.

He is in prison and awaiting trial for conspiring to murder Ms Bhutto's estranged brother and political rival, who died in a gun battle with police two years ago.

Earlier this month Mr Zardari was indicted on money-laundering charges by a Swiss magistrate in Geneva.

The magistrate said he anticipated indicting Ms Bhutto herself shortly.

A special commission, funded by the current Pakistani government, has been investigating allegations of corruption against Ms Bhutto. So far, four

separate cases have been registered against the former prime minister.

Ms Bhutto and her husband, who became known as "Mr Ten Per cent" after his wife appointed him Minister for Investment in her last government, are alleged to have siphoned off hundreds of millions of pounds from Pakistan during their time in power.

Pakistan's government investigators say the couple used this money to buy property all over the world, including a £3m mansion in Surrey and a string of luxury apartments in London's West End.

At Karachi airport, Ms Bhutto said the allegations that she had plundered the state coffers were all false. "I am not afraid of being arrested. In fact, news of my arrest is insignificant compared to the crisis we are going through," she said.

The accusations against her were an attempt by the government to "divert the attention of the people", she said.

"Only we can restore the confidence of investors at home and abroad, can tackle the Indian threat and address the concerns of Western countries and Japan."

Leaders of Ms Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party said they were planning to lead rallies of party supporters "on to the streets".

They said the planned campaign had been inspired by "the mass mobilisation and agitation seen in Indonesia".

Murder hunt starts for cyanide curry poisoner

POLICE LAUNCHED an investigation into suspected mass murder yesterday after dozens of people at a community festival in western Japan ate curry and rice that had been contaminated with cyanide. Four victims have died so far and 60 are being treated in hospital.

Police flooded the small community of Wakayama, 250 miles west of Tokyo, with 150 extra officers and began house-to-house searches for the source of the poison.

"We have yet to make any final determination about the case, but it appears that someone tainted the food or eating utensils with cyanide," a police spokesman said. An attempt at mass murder could not be ruled out, he said.

"I don't understand how this could have happened," one of the festival-goers told Japanese television. "We all know each other and I don't remember

seeing any strangers there. There were two people watching the food all the time until it was taken to the food stall."

More than 100 people had attended the summer festival, the local community's main annual event. The first victims were taken to the hospital at about 7.30pm on Saturday.

Doctors on the scene said cyanide was a potent toxin. Even a trace will cause nausea within 10 or 15 minutes of being taken.

The victims at Wakayama suffered incessant vomiting, irregular heart beats and numbness in the limbs. The four who had died by yesterday were three males and a woman; the victims' ages ranged from 10 to 64, a police spokesman said.

The curry dish had been sold on polystyrene plates at 150 yen (85p) a portion. Enough was prepared to feed 100 people.

Curry meals came to Japan from India a century ago and have become a staple at big gatherings. The festival food was all prepared by local residents.

Cyanide was used in one of Japan's most notorious multiple murder cases in 1948, when an extortionist killed 12 employees in a Tokyo bank by pretending to be a health official conducting dysentery tests. After evacuating more than 5,000 residents and stopping nearby train services, Japanese military experts yesterday defused a 500lb US-made bomb believed to have dropped 53 years ago during the Second World War.

Workers found the bomb on 29 June while doing drainage work, said Kunihiko Komachi, a spokesman of the city office in Tachikawa, about 21 miles north-west of Tokyo.

— Reuters/AP

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In Lebanon little fish fall prey to the big fish

CITY LIFE
BEIRUT

AT THREE in the morning, the 20 cats of Ein Mreisse port were still asleep but Abu Mohamed was already in the *Manar*, putting out into the darkness, his nets curled up in the tough old tyre-rubber baskets and me sitting on the oars.

The sea was bathwater-warm, so the fog banks had gathered only a few hundred yards from shore. Pitch your nets before midnight and by dawn the fish are hanging rotten in the mesh. Which is why we were riding the swell when Beirut had been asleep for hours. As Abu Mohamed dropped the nets, the cork and lead weights clicking over the *Manar's* wooden hull, he became the fisherman of every illustrated Bible.

His father, bald old Abu Ghazi, runs the little fleet; he was casting his own nets from the *Nasr*, his friend Abu Ahmed at the helm. Normally the noisiest fisherman in Ein Mreisse, his voice had been silenced by the ghostly heaving water.

You learn your fish lore fast in the waters off Beirut. Fish can hear: hump your foot on the hull and you'll see them flick away from the boat. Don't stand up because the fish can see you. The warmer the sea, the more fish move. Like humans, they stay quiet in cold waters. The nets are cast in circles because fish often swim in a straight line.

And they feel pain, Abu Mohamed tells me. "They have souls and it's impossible that a soul doesn't feel pain. But God gave the fish for our livelihood. And the big fish eat the little fish. If they didn't, the sea would be

so packed we'd never get our boats out."

He said all this quite innocently and I thought of all those medieval pictures of fish-crammed oceans. We were hunting for Sultan Ibrahim, the Lebanese version of red mullet. But you can forget the fish-packed seas.

You have only to look at Ein Mreisse's crumbling, tatty harbour to see that. It used to be called Fakour (pots) from the ancient pottery factory by the jetty whose last Ottoman arch is already collapsing. It's been a port for 300 years - but over all towers a monstrous, brand-new 20-storey block of apartments at \$225,000 a flat, a symbol of the New Beirut that could kill off Abu Mohamed and his 34 fellow fishermen. "They want our port for their luxury yachts," he says. "It's not the port they object to, but our poverty."

The reconstruction of Beirut has pushed millions of tons of rubble into a new promontory that is moving into the water, turning the spawning grounds arid. Out at sea, you can just hear the 24-hour thunder of the bulldozers. The government gives no security to the fishermen. Some men - "cruel men, not fishermen," Abu Mohamed says - have used poison to kill fish. "We caught one of them once. He turned out to be the son of someone important. He was back a day later."

Unemployed and with four children to support and no food, Abu Mohamed used dynamite during the 1982 Israeli siege of Beirut, blasting the backbones of the fish to avoid hours of netting and



The traditional way of life for the fishermen of Ein Mreisse is dying out as Beirut expands Robert Fisk

the bullets that Israeli gunboats fired off at the "terrorist" fishermen. Now he's back on the nets.

As the fog drifted round us, an airliner flew low over the sea, its lights cutting fingers through the mist. The technology of the waning 20th century was passing above us as Abu Mohamed continued a ritual of 2,000 years. He let the nets move across the veil of waters. "The sea is more than a friend and God forbid that I am ever frightened of the

sea," he said. "No fisherman can go back and work for someone else and be able to survive."

At ten to four, we heard the "Fajr" call drifting across to us from the minaret of the Ein Mreisse mosque, the dawn prayer. At first light, Abu Mohamed pulled in the nets. A few mullet were tangled in the mesh. An octopus came slopping up, thrown back into the sea by Abu Mohamed. "We once caught 200 kilograms of fish in a night," he said. "Now

we're lucky if we get two kilos." The tiny catch lay in agony on the deck.

Suddenly to our right, a little fish bounced out of the water like a cricket ball. In less than a second, it was followed by a gun-metal grey tuna, two feet long, which soared 15 feet above the waves, gobbled the little fish in mid-air and plunged back into the water like a missile.

We rolled back into Ein Mreisse with slim pickings, tying up beneath the mon-

strous apartment block. Abu Mohamed had made £18. A rat as big as a football thumped past me in the half-light. Peral cats fought each other for the fish scraps.

The Lebanese press have also chewed over the fishermen's plight. "Last of a dying breed", their headlines proclaimed. "Fishermen act out age-old drama of the seas". I think the moral is simpler.

In Lebanon, the big fish eat the little fish. ROBERT FISK

Election boosts Korean dictator

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

KIM JONG IL, North Korea's mysterious leader, came a step closer to being formally declared the country's president yesterday when elections to a puppet assembly were held throughout the Stalinist dictatorship.

Under North Korea's constitution, elections to the "Supreme People's Assembly" are supposed to be held every five years. But they were cancelled in 1995, after the death of the founding president, Kim Il Sung.

Since then his son, Kim Jong Il, is believed to have inherited his power, without, however, inheriting the presidency. It is expected that the newly constituted Assembly will grant him the post soon. The most likely date is 9 September, the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the North Korean state.

The democratic character of the elections was indicated by the comments of one voter, carried on the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA): "Experiencing the same glee that our people felt when they held great leader Kim Il Sung in high esteem as head of state 50 years ago, I cast

my ballot for the supreme commander, Kim Jong Il."

In the last election, in 1990, 678 assembly members were elected. Mr Kim himself stood in constituency 666 in the capital, Pyongyang. The number is said to signify good luck in North Korea rather than symbolising, as in biblical tradition, the Beast of Revelation.

North Korean domestic politics are almost impenetrable to the outside world and the significance of the election is difficult to gauge.

Recently the new President of South Korea, Kim Dae Jung, has adopted a more conciliatory policy towards the North, and has spoken of direct meetings between the two governments. With a president in Pyongyang named and acclaimed, that process may become easier.

Relations between the two states have been ruffled by the recent arrest of North Korean spies south of the border between the two states.

The US navy has deployed vessels near the peninsula, an action North Korea ferociously denounced at the weekend. "The US imperialists must stop the arrogant military threat at once," said a spokesman for the KCNA.

Cambodia vote 'unfair'

CAMBODIANS DEFTED fears of violence and turned out to vote in large numbers yesterday. But the one-month campaign for the crucial election was marred by widespread intimidation and some assaults and was criticised as unfair by the opposition and human rights groups.

Cambodia's present leader, Hun Sen, who overthrew his

co-prime minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh in a coup last year, reiterated that he and his Cambodian People's Party (CPP) would hand over power within hours if it loses the vote. Hun Sen is hoping his CPP can legitimise its hold on power with electoral victory.

Prince Ranariddh said he was confident his party would win a fair vote. - Reuters

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BUSINESS

BT braces for battle to clear \$10bn AT&T venture

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

BRITISH TELECOM is facing a 12-month battle with regulators in Europe and the US to clear its \$10bn (£6bn) joint venture with AT&T, the American telecoms giant, details of which were announced yesterday.

Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, said he hoped the joint venture - which will combine all of BT and AT&T's international operations - would be approved "within a year". However, industry experts said it was unlikely that regulators would clear the deal without first forcing BT and AT&T to sell off parts of the new business.

The two companies' combined share of transatlantic telephone traffic is likely to face particularly close scrutiny, although BT and AT&T are expected to argue that their share of that market is falling rapidly as competitors lay new transatlantic cables.

Sir Peter insisted the joint venture would help intensify competition in telecom markets around the world. "The nature of our proposal gives us an opportunity to offer global competition on a scale never seen before," he said.

In an audacious deal, BT and AT&T are proposing to fold all their international businesses into a new venture which will be 50 per cent owned by each company. The new company - which has yet to be named - will combine AT&T and BT's international telephone networks, all their international call traffic, and their products for business customers. The two companies will also transfer 250 of their largest telecom accounts with multinational clients in the financial, oil and information technology sectors to the new venture.

The joint venture will be a huge player in the telecom sector. In the year 2000 (its first full year of operation), it is expected to have revenues of \$10bn and earnings before interest and tax of \$1bn - both growing at a rate of more than 15 per cent a year. The venture is also expected to spend \$1bn a year on capital expenditure.

The company, which will be able to offer services in 237 countries, will have 5,000 employees and be headquartered on the Eastern seaboard of the United States, where the majority of large multinational companies are based. Sir Ian Vallance, BT's chairman, will be chairman of the new company. A chief executive is currently being sought inside and outside the two joint venture partners.

The deal is likely to receive rapturous approval in the City today. The venture marks an end to BT's search for a US partner following the rebuttal of its \$23bn cash-and-shares



Robert Brace, the BT finance director, yesterday with AT&T president John Ziegler and the CEO of BT, Sir Peter Bonfield. Neville Elder

COMPANY PROFILES			
	BT	AT&T	
Revenue	£15bn	£31bn	
Pre-tax profit	£3.2bn	£4.3bn	
Market capitalisation	£53bn	£59bn	
Price/book ratio	4.88	4.30	
Employees	129,200	128,000	
Relative share performance year to date (vs FTSE Allshare and S&P 500)	+47.88%	-16.76%	Source: Reuters Securities 3000

History of merger attempts

1986: Buys 51 per cent of Mitel, a Canadian company; partnership founders and BT sells stake for a loss in 1992.
1989: Buys 20% of McCaw Communications, but US regulators block attempts to increase stake. BT sells stake to AT&T four years later, this time for a profit.
1994: MCI and BT "Coocern" joint venture. BT holds 75% stake. 1996: Announces intention to join forces with Cable & Wireless. Deal is called off just weeks later; breakdown blamed on "regulatory and partnership issues".
November 1996: Launches \$24 bn bid for MCI.
1997: Forces MCI to renegotiate deal after US giant issues profit warning. GTE and WorldCom launch counter-bids for MCI. WorldCom is eventual winner.
1998: Announces joint venture with AT&T.

TOP TELECOMS FIRMS

	market value
Nippon T&T	£84bn
SBC Comms + Ameritech	£81bn
AT&T Corp	£59bn
MCI/WorldCom	£59bn
British Telecom	£53bn
Deutsche Telekom	£48bn
Bell Atlantic	£42bn
Bell South	£41bn
France Telecom	£40bn
GTE	£34bn

BRIEFING

Bill gives more teeth to the FSA

THE GOVERNMENT will this week unveil the biggest attempt to reform the City in 12 years with the publication of the Financial Regulatory Reform Bill.

The Bill will give the City's main regulator, the Financial Services Authority, powers to punish anyone involved in insider dealing or market manipulation with sanctions under civil law, including unlimited fines.

It also includes sweeping powers to bring all City firms under one statutory regulator operating at arms length from the Treasury. Banks will also be supervised by the FSA under new powers introduced with the bill.

BMW threat to axe Rover jobs

ROVER IS threatening to cut a further 1,500 jobs as part of a drive to introduce new working practices, according to reports. The threat is understood to have arisen as part of negotiations between BMW and unions at Rover over the imposition of German-style rules in the workplace. The working practice involves paying workers according to hours worked in the year, with the company able to decide when those hours are worked. Workers will also be expected to step up hours worked next year in exchange for working four day weeks while orders are low.

The threat comes just a few days after Rover said 1,500 jobs would disappear because of the strength of sterling.

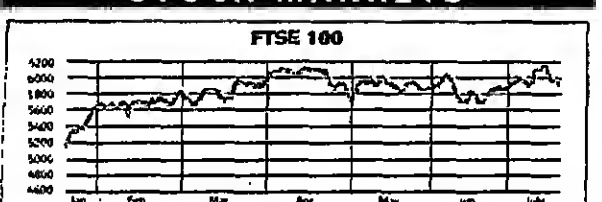
Liffe tests electronic trading

LIFFE, LONDON'S international futures and options exchange, will today begin testing part of its new electronic trading system. The equities part of LIFFE CONNECT is due to go live on November 30, and tomorrow will be the first opportunity for the 45 firms which have signed up to equities CONNECT to test their own in-house systems against the Liffe trading engine.

The futures part of LIFFE CONNECT is well on course for launch in the second quarter of 1999, the exchange said, and 550 people have signed up to attend a briefing on the new system in London later today.

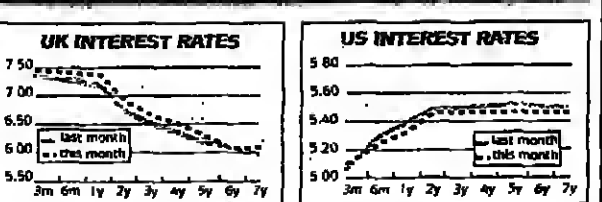
The "go live" date for futures CONNECT will be published in November.

STOCK MARKETS



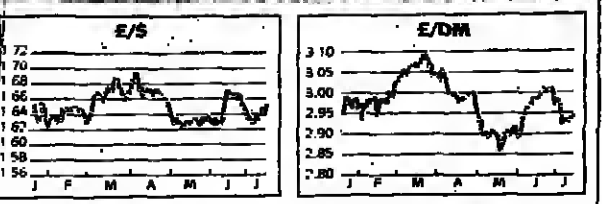
Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5092.30	-281.70	-5.56	6183.7	4392.8	3.375
FTSE 250	5520.60	-183.10	-3.21	5970.9	4428.3	3.058
FTSE 350	2837.10	-128.00	-4.32	2969.1	2141.8	3.317
FTSE All Share	2760.92	-121.81	-4.23	2896.52	2106.59	3.309
FTSE SmallCap	2520.00	-69.40	-2.68	2793.8	2182.1	3.172
FTSE Fledgling	1350.00	-26.80	-1.99	1517.1	1235.2	3.422
FTSE AIM	1089.50	0.80	0.07	1146.9	985.2	1.185
FTSE EPOC 100	1093.06	-	-	-	-	-
Dow Jones	8937.36	-400.10	-4.39	9367.84	6971.32	1.639
Nikkei	16361.69	-208.89	-1.26	20698.67	14488.21	0.933
Hang Seng	8257.46	-371.47	-4.31	10820.31	7351.68	4.957
Dax	6035.28	-112.59	-1.83	6217.83	3487.24	2.438

INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES			
Index	3 month	6 month	1 year
UK	7.81	0.75	7.94
US	5.69	-0.03	5.81
Japan	0.67	0.03	0.68
Germany	3.53	0.35	3.80

CURRENCIES



POUND			
Index	Close	Wk's ch	Yr ago
Dollar	1.6592	-1.63%	1.6735
D-Mark	2.9515	+1.96%	3.0613
Yen	234.75	+55.67	194.37
E index	105.50	+0.90	106.20

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Wk's ch	Yr ago
Brent Oil (\$)	12.18	0.13	18.76
Gold (\$)	291.45	-3.05	323.38
Silver (\$)	5.67	0.39	4.28

TOURIST RATES

	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
Australia (\$)	2.5688			
Austria (schillings)	20.09			
Belgium (francs)	59.07			
Canada (\$)	2.4057			
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8367			
Denmark (krone)	10.95			
Finland (markka)	8.7447			
France (francs)	9.5889			
Germany (marks)	2.8706			
Greece (drachma)	472.88			
Hong Kong (\$)	12.40			
Ireland (pounds)	1.1355			
India (rupees)	64.47			
Israel (shekels)	5.5591			
Italy (lira)	2834			
Japan (yen)	228.72			
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.5308			
Malta (lira)	0.6228			
Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.23			
Netherlands (guilder)	3.2214			
New Zealand (\$)	3.0378			
Norway (krone)	12.17			
Portugal (escudos)	290.03			
Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0116			
Singapore (\$)	2.6952			
Spain (pesetas)	242.23			
South Africa (rand)	9.9485			
Sweden (krone)	12.80			
Switzerland (francs)	2.4213			
Thailand (bahts)	61.01			
Turkey (liras)	429176			
USA (\$)	1.6116			

£800 windfall in Halifax bid

BY ANDREW VERITY

HALIFAX WILL announce this week details of an agreed takeover of Birmingham Midshires in a deal that values the building society at £780m.

Detailed talks on the offer are expected to yield favourable terms for the Halifax, which earlier this year torpedoed Royal Bank of Scotland's £500m offer by naming the £780m sum.

Over one million members of the Midshires could be in line for windfall payouts of around £800 each if the deal is approved at an extraordinary general meeting later this year. An announcement on the bid will be made on Thursday.

Aside from price, the terms of the deal are understood to be less favourable to the society than the original offer from Royal Bank, which included a three-year jobs guarantee for the Midshires' 2,200 staff. Royal Bank also guaranteed to keep the Midshires brand.

Mike Jackson, chief executive of Birmingham Midshires, is expected to step down when the deal goes through.

Halifax has already said it sees value in the Midshires

brand, but is thought to have shranked from giving the full three-year jobs guarantee.

Halifax will also be forced to pay a small poison pill of £10m in order to bid for the society. The payment was demanded by George Mathewson, group chief executive of Royal Bank, in exchange for releasing Midshires from a legally-binding promise not to discuss a takeover bid from another buyer.

A formal offer is likely to trigger an auction for the society. Bank of Ireland and Lloyds TSB have both indicated an interest in expanding their share of the UK mortgage market.

If the deal is approved by members, Halifax will see its share of existing mortgages rise to 20 per cent. Unions fear Halifax may try to close a substantial proportion of Midshires' 112 branches, many of which share a high street with the Halifax branch. However, a source close to the Halifax denied there were plans for wholesale closures.

Gloom spreads to marketing

BY LEA PATERSON

BUSINESS CONFIDENCE has slumped to its lowest level for four years.

A survey of marketing managers by The Chartered Institute of Marketing survey found pessimism was widespread in the manufacturing sector, and even the normally upbeat marketing managers in the services sector were becoming gloomy.

"We are now seeing the economic slowdown spread to the service sector as well as the manufacturing sector," said Professor Douglas McWilliams, chief executive of the Centre for

Economics and Business Research and CIM's economic adviser.

"While this may be later than the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had planned, it is evidence that the high interest rate medicine is starting to work its way through the economy."

CIM's Confidence Index has fallen to 91.2, the lowest level ever recorded in CIM's four-year-old survey. Overall, 43 per

cent of UK marketing managers are expecting to miss their sales targets in 1998.

Steve Cuthbert, director general of CIM, said: "The results are cause for concern. It is clear that for many companies, when they put together their sales plans at the beginning of 1998, the possibility of a slowdown in the economy was a glimmer in the forecaster's eye and not taken too seriously."

Falling confidence in the manufacturing sector is also expected to emerge as a theme in the latest Confederation of

British Industry quarterly survey, expected later this week. Historically, CBI's manufacturing confidence index has been a good predictor of wider economic trends. Low readings are normally associated with slow growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

However, a more upbeat economic picture was provided by Ernst & Young. Their survey found that despite signs of an economic slowdown, there was a fall in the number of profit warnings in the second quarter of this year.

Boots to sell Do-It-All for £80m

BOOTS IS set to announce the sale of Do-It-All, its do-it-yourself arm, to the independent DIY chain Focus in an agreed deal worth over £80m.

The disposal of Do-It-All will mark the end of an unhappy experience for Boots. Do-It-All was originally developed by WH Smith before being merged with Boots' Payless chain in 1990. The joint venture was a disaster, baemorrhaging money and market share as

B&Q and other rivals increased their dominance of the sector. WH Smith is believed to have paid Boots £50m to take on its stake in the retailer two years ago when Do-It-All still had 199 outlets. Since then Boots has concentrated on closing the worst performing stores and tidying up the business for sale. In a big reconstruction, Boots introduced plans to spend £80m on closing 65 stores and refurbishing a further 134.

In June, Boots reported that Do-It-All had recorded operating profits of £2.5m on sales of £337.2m against a £6.2m loss in the previous year. It sold 28 stores during the year and plans to sell or close a further 11.

With 71 stores in the UK, Focus, co-owned by chairman Bill Archer and Duke Street Capital, has become the biggest independent owner of DIY stores.

The deal underlines increasing consolidation in Britain's DIY industry. Sainsbury's bought Texas Homecare from Ladbroke in 1995. Boots has sold its AG Stanley business, which includes Fads and Homestyles, to Alchemy, the venture capitalist group. Robert Dyas, the family-run ironmonger, is also up for sale. Sainsbury's considered Robert Dyas but decided not to take its interest further.

صبرنا من الراجل

How the soft landing could turn hard

LAST WEEK, this column argued that the phase of delusion, which unfortunately manifests itself at the peak of each economic cycle, was coming to an end in the UK. The acceleration in wages no longer allows policymakers to assume that the underlying behaviour of the economy was vastly improved relative to previous history. Instead, they have to come to terms with the sober reality that output is now above trend, and that the "excess" of output and employment will have to be eliminated over the next couple of years. The key remaining question is whether to do this slowly or rapidly - ie whether to impose a hard landing on the economy.

In order to understand this dilemma, we need to track back to the first quarter of the year, when the MPC at the Bank of England decided not to increase base rates. At that time, they probably imagined that the UK economy was following the "soft landing" path, marked "A" in the graph. Why might they have believed this? In very stylised terms, the doves at the Bank might have believed that GDP was about 0.5 per cent above trend early this year. That in turn could have been consistent with GDP being at trend in early 1996, with the trend growing at the relatively optimistic rate of about 2.6 per cent per annum since then.

In this relatively optimistic world, there was absolutely no



GAVIN DAVIES

The consequences of allowing the boom to proceed too long would be severe

need to impose a hard landing on the economy in order to hit the inflation target over the following two years. To see this, bear in mind the key constraint which all policy-makers face as a matter of arithmetic. If inflation is to be broadly stable in the course of an entire economic cycle, the downswing must be similar in intensity to the upswing that precedes it. In more formal language, the cumulative excess of output relative to trend during the boom must be offset by an equivalent period in which output is below trend by exactly the same cumulative amount.

Once all the lags have worked through, this will leave inflation at the end of the cycle about the same as it was at the beginning. In the current example, inflation in early 1996 was slightly above the 2.5 per cent government target, so the slowdown phase of the cycle needed to be more intense than the upswing phase in order to hit the target over the usual two-year horizon which the MPC focuses upon. But there was no need for a hard landing to achieve this. A slowdown in output growth to below trend for about 12-18 months was quite sufficient, and the doves clearly believed that this was already in the pipeline, based on existing levels of interest rates.

It is still possible that this assessment will prove correct. But the sharp rise in average earnings in the private sector suggests that a much more pessimistic scenario might be valid instead. As explained last week, the behaviour of wages suggests that output may now be about 1.5 per cent above trend, or equivalently that unemployment might be about half a million (2 percentage points) below its sustainable rate.

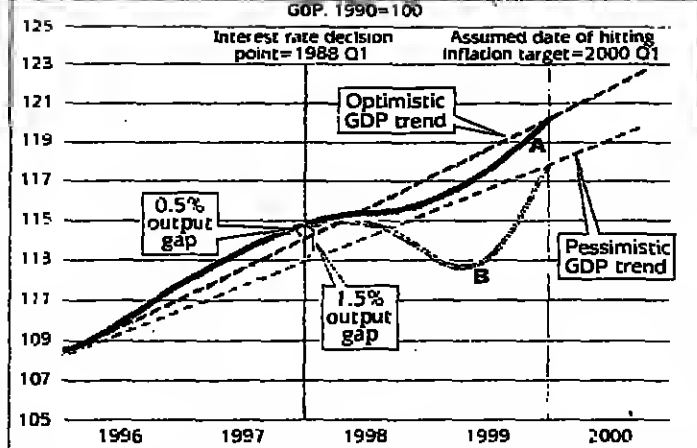
Let us imagine for a moment that this is the case, so the positive output gap is in fact 1.5 per cent instead of 0.5 per cent. The next question is why has this occurred - in particular, is output higher than has been recorded in the official statistics, or is the trend growth of output lower than was assumed in the optimistic case? According to the National Institute, the new GDP estimates that will be unveiled when the national accounts are rebased in September are likely to be lower than existing estimates, which implies that the former explanation is improbable. Therefore we are left to grapple with the alternative, which is that the trend growth rate in GDP is running at the pessimistic rate of only 2.2 per cent.

This automatically implies that the cumulative excess of GDP above trend since 1996 has been much greater than in the optimistic case. In order to hit the inflation target over the usual 2-year horizon, this excess GDP still needs to be eliminated by the beginning of 2000, but this now requires a much sharper decline in output than would occur in the optimistic case. In fact, it requires a drop of around 2 per cent in GDP in the next 12-18 months - a very nasty hard landing. The consequences of allowing the boom to proceed for too long by failing to tighten monetary policy more decisively in 1996 and 1997 would then be seen to be extremely severe.

We can now use this analysis to illustrate the dilemma currently faced by the MPC. The Committee now needs to ask itself two questions. First, what is the probability that the economy actually finds itself in the pessimistic half of the graph, instead of the optimistic part which was previously assumed? Second, if we are in the pessimistic zone - so that output needs to be reduced quite sharply to hit the inflation target - does this require a further rise in interest rates? Or is the current level of rates already high enough to ensure that the required drop in output is already in the pipeline?

Since the spring, the evidence on these two questions has shifted in conflicting directions. On the first, the behaviour of wages suggests that the probability of the economy

HOW A SOFT LANDING COULD BECOME A HARD LANDING



being in the pessimistic zone has increased. Taken alone, this would point to the need for much higher interest rates than the doves expected a few months ago. However, on the second question, there is already strong evidence that a sharp slowdown in GDP growth is now underway. The second quarter GDP figures showed the economy growing by 0.3 per cent overall, but only by 0.3 per cent when variations in energy production are stripped out of the data. This is already significantly below trend, and recent business surveys suggest that the momentum remains strongly

downwards. Obviously, this second set of factors reduces the need to increase base rates now. Where does this leave us? Clearly, there is a rising probability that a hard landing will be needed to hit the inflation target, but the MPC is unlikely to judge that this has yet reached 50 per cent. Therefore they are unlikely to seek to impose a hard landing on the economy at this stage, though they might be shifting their assessment away from optimistic path "A" and somewhat nearer pessimistic path "B". Simultaneously, they are almost certain to take the view that the economy might already be embarked on this lower path for output, based on the increasing evidence that domestic demand is now responding quite sharply to earlier base rate increases. Exports, of course, have been plummeting for some time, demonstrating that overall monetary conditions - driven by the overvalued exchange rate - are very tight.

The upshot is that the MPC would be justified this month in doing nothing, since there is not enough evidence yet that the landing will need to be harder than that already in the pipeline. Maybe the MPC doves made mistakes by opposing a more decisive increase in base rates last year, but the damage cannot be undone by committing overkill today.

IN BRIEF

More fines for late tax returns

UP TO 400,000 self-employed taxpayers who have failed to return tax forms were warned yesterday that they face further fines and surcharges six months after missing the 31 January deadline.

Errant taxpayers must return forms by July 31 or face a second £100 fine, plus a surcharge worth 5 per cent of tax outstanding. Interest will also accrue on debts. The deadline of 31 July also applies to the second payment on account owing for 1997-98.

Chas Roy-Chowdhury, Secretary to the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, said: "Where possible, hand in documents at the tax office."

Bae arm buy-in

BRITISH AEROSPACE is close to selling its property business, Arlington Securities, to a management buy-in team for around £300m, according to reports. Bae is understood to have agreed terms with Pricco, the fund management subsidiary of Prudential of America, in a deal which will keep Arlington's chief executive, Patrick Deignan, at the helm.

Arlington, which develops business parks, has attracted interest from several property companies since last October when Bae said it was reviewing its property holdings.

156,000 proxies

MORE MEMBERS of Nationwide voted explicitly for demutualisation than against it, it emerged yesterday. The society last week won an election on a proposal to take steps to demutualise with a majority of 33,000, or 1.6 per cent. While the vote was valid, 156,000 voting forms were reportedly left unmarked, allowing them to be counted as proxy votes by Charles Nunneley, the society's chairman, under Nationwide's rules.

Wessex bid fears

WATERWATCH, the consumer pressure group, yesterday urged the Government to block the takeover of Wessex Water by Enron Corp, the American utility giant. The pressure group said it feared Ofwat, the regulator, would be powerless to control vital financial decisions taken abroad.

Air crew listing

PARC GROUP, an Irish recruitment agency specialising in contract airline pilots, will announce plans today to list on the Alternative Investment Market. The agency was formed in 1975 and saw profits rise by 52 per cent to IR£2.82m in the year to March 1998.

Price war slims mortgage 'spread'

News Analysis: Nationwide's wafer thin vote not to become a bank makes it certain that borrowers' rates are set to rise in September

IF BRIAN DAVIS, chief executive of the Nationwide Building Society, is right, the real victors of Thursday's wafer-thin vote in favour of staying mutual are savers and borrowers nationwide, not just Nationwide's customers.

All customers benefit because building societies can charge borrowers less and pay savers more.

The bad news is reserved for banks and converted societies, he argues. Mortgages have become so competitive that converted societies, such as Abbey National, have conceded it is difficult to make a profit on them. Nationwide, with its rate a full 0.85 points lower than the norm of 6.95 per cent, can act as a competitive restraint on banks and stop them rebuilding margins at the customer's expense.

Ironically Nationwide's latest move appears to support the opposite view; in the short-term, mortgages will become less competitive, not more.

A day after the result of the vote, Mr Davis said mortgage rates would almost certainly have to rise in September. Even other mutuals such as Bradford & Bingley are charging 8.45 per cent. Nationwide's rates would go up by up to 0.6 points.

In the medium term, however, banks may privately agree Thursday's vote was bad news for them. Nationwide will raise its rates - but not to the 8.95 per cent offered by the banks. And by raising its rates, the society will find it easier to offer good headline figures to its savers.

Mutuals point to the market share of lenders such as Woolwich and Halifax, whose share of new loans, net of redemptions, has shrunk dramatically over the last year. In Halifax's case, net lending in 1997/98 was at a third of its normal market share. Its chairman, Jon Foulds, has warned it will prove difficult to rebuild this in the short term.

The efforts of Nationwide and Bradford & Bingley to demonstrate the benefits of mutuality have forced converted societies and banks to resort to ways of appealing to

BY ANDREW VERITY

customers other than the normal headline interest rate.

In a market heavily influenced by fears of climbing interest rates, converted societies, such as the Halifax, say the real market is not for the variable-rate mortgages for which the mutuals compete so fiercely. It is for fixed, capped and discounted mortgages - which now represent some 60 per cent of new loans.

David Gilchrist, director of corporate affairs at the Halifax, claims Mr Davis's arguments are "all theory". "We don't see Nationwide as a big competitor. Most of our competition is coming not from the mutuals but from banks," he says.

Halifax points out it is still selling one in six of all new mortgages - it is just that more customers are redeeming their loans, switching to a fixed rate, or switching to direct providers such as Virgin or Legal & General.

Mutuality may confer an advantage in rates of one per cent point, but direct providers, able to borrow cheap long-term money from the markets, have an even greater cost advantage: they need not to support a branch network.

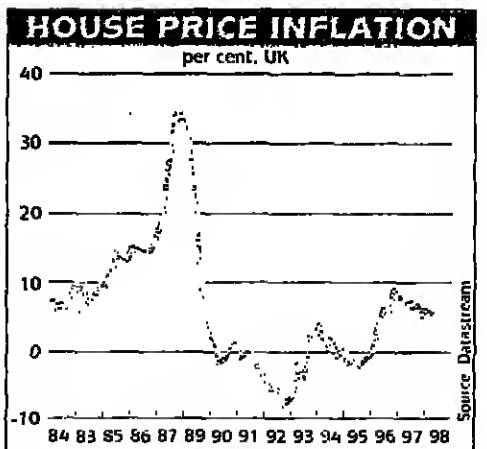
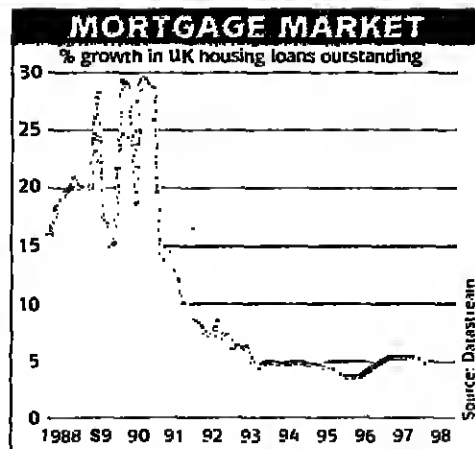
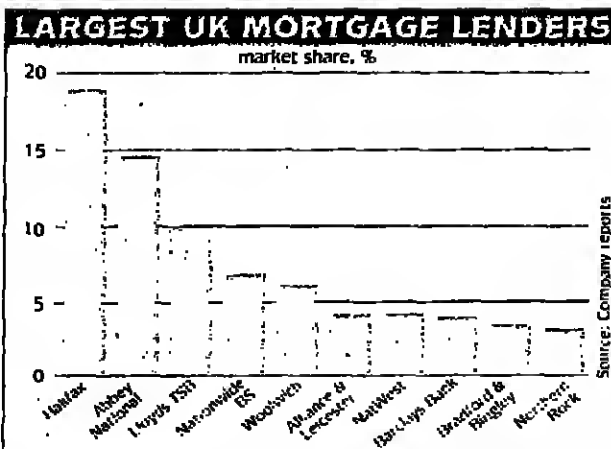
Northern Rock, traditionally a branch-based society, is succeeding in promoting itself as a direct provider, selling an ever-growing chunk of its mortgages to borrowers outside its Newcastle base.

The mortgage price war may have shrunk lenders' "spreads" - the gap between savings rates and loan rates where profits have traditionally been made.

Some converted societies have been able to boost profits - in Northern Rock's case by 10.7 per cent after exceptional - by taking the money out elsewhere. In the best example, the lender offers highly-competitive fixed-rate deals over two or five years, but borrowers must buy pricey buildings and contents insurance to get the best rates, and Northern Rock picks up a commission.



Brian Davis (above) says that in the short term, mortgages will become less competitive. Lenders are having to look to other services to make money, such as low fixed-rate deals tied to home and contents' policies. For the present, home buyers can shop around for a number of discounted or low-start deals - but for how much longer?



Northern Rock's success bucks the conventional wisdom among mortgage lenders, that the market is so competitive that lenders must make their profits by diversifying into life and pensions. Abbey National, alive to the squeeze on mortgages, has indicated that, unlike the Halifax, its next acquisition is likely to be an insurer.

In stark contrast, Northern Rock is sticking to its knitting - mortgages and savings. But spreads are still very narrow. Earnings growth at the converted societies will depend heavily on rising house prices to boost the amounts being lent - and, therefore, the

interest paid. A consensus forecast that house prices would rise by 6 per cent in 1998 was meagre enough. However, in the light of reports of a slowdown from surveyors and estate agents, even that may be optimistic.

Nick Collier of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the investment bank, says: "A price war is a clear risk for the established players." Spreads may not shrink to nothing. But amid a price war, the slowdown in house prices could be critical. Lenders such as Halifax and Woolwich need to rebuild their market share fast - or see their biggest earner, interest income, fall behind inflation.

Such are the competitive pressures that some 40 per cent of all new mortgages are now remortgages to take advantage of the host of cut-price deals on offer. Buyers are now moving between lenders the way they once moved house.

Concern is growing that lenders, caught between the rock of shrinking margins and the hard place of lower market share, are competing purely on the basis of marketing appeal - with nasty consequences for the consumer.

David Prosser, chief executive of Legal & General, last week joined Mr Davis in attacking the increasingly widespread use of glistering upfront

inducements to attract unwary lenders who are later caught by a painful sting in the tail.

By tying the borrower in for a number of years, lenders can get a secure income stream which enables them to take a loss upfront and recover it later. Small building societies as well as banks have offered interest as low as one per cent for the first year, a cash lump sum upfront, or the lowest of the low fixed-rate deals.

When the period covered by the discount or fixed rate ends, borrowers can find themselves on much higher rates - but still tied in by redemption penalties equivalent to a sizeable chunk of the loan.

Significantly, the Council of Mortgage Lenders last week shied away from asking its members to stop using redemption penalties in this way. In the climate of a price war and a slowdown, these tricks have become central to much of the new business being done.

But it may not last. Helen Liddell, the economic secretary to the Treasury, has made it clear she will make use of reserve powers in the forthcoming Financial Regulation Bill, to be published this week, if lenders fail to look after consumers' interests.

In the mortgage market in 1998, it seems, competition does not always pay dividends.

Revenue targets share buybacks for tax avoidance

FUND MANAGERS are heading for a legal clash with the Government over attempts by officials to recover up to £1.5bn in tax rebates paid to pension funds after share buybacks.

On the suspicion that many buybacks were deliberate tax avoidance schemes, Inland Revenue investigators are demanding detailed information on all share buybacks between September 1994 and October 1996.

BY ANDREW VERITY

Officials are seeking records dating back to 1974 to see if an "abnormal rate of return" was made between an institution taking a holding in a company and the date it sold shares back - one of the Revenue's tests for tax avoidance.

If the Revenue concludes the buybacks took place with the aim of avoiding tax, pension

funds could be forced to repay hundreds of millions of pounds to the Exchequer.

Up to £1.5bn in tax credits was paid out by the Revenue to pension funds and charities between September 1994 and October 1996, following share buybacks with a total value of more than £5bn.

The credits were paid on the basis that pension funds, as tax-exempt institutions, should not pay tax on what was regarded

as a distribution to shareholders similar to dividends. But the Revenue has told fund managers its decision to pay the credits did not imply the buybacks were viewed as legitimate, rather than deliberate tax avoidance schemes.

The investigation follows a case between the Revenue and the Universities Superannuation Scheme, the pension fund for lecturers and staff. The courts upheld the Rev-

enue's tax abuse claim when a company agreed to use a buyback as a tax-efficient way of repaying a debt owed to the pension fund.

A Revenue spokeswoman said: "Every single buyback between September 1994 and October 1996 is to be reviewed. We obviously need to establish whether there has been an abnormal rate of return."

"Cases are being looked at on an individual basis, but

where we find an abnormal return we will take steps to reclaim the tax credits."

Fearing a second tax raid on pension funds, three fund managers under the umbrella of the Institutional Fund Managers Association are considering taking the Revenue to court to show it has no case for reclaiming the credits.

The fund managers, which declined to be named, fear the Revenue will describe anything

in excess of interest rates on deposits to be "abnormal". They have commissioned a counsel's opinion on whether the Revenue can validly reclaim the credits.

Julian LeFanu, a spokesman for the IFMA, said: "It in the period prior to the buyback the market has gone up rapidly, then that could lead to what seems to be an 'abnormal return'. That doesn't mean it was tax avoidance."

Source: Bloomberg
www.bloomberg.com/uk



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...A Portrait ON
...and Jackson

SPORT

Commonwealth Games: Why the man from the South Atlantic has been warming up for Kuala Lumpur in Manchester



A true Corinthian: British-born Hugh Marsden, of the Falkland Islands, in dedicated pursuit of the gold medal he is most unlikely to win at the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia in September

Peter Jay

Island spirit of the marathon man

IT WAS a sizeable departure from the anticipated splendour of the Commonwealth Games. True, there was plenty of moisture in the air (in Manchester they call it rain) but the heat was negligible and the crowd of the dedicated and the curious would not have filled the front row of the stadium in Kuala Lumpur.

It was not easy to spot the link between the Coolmax Tour of Tameside in Ashton-under-Lyne this week and September's Games but it was there tucked in the pack. Not at the front, where you would expect an international runner to be, but some seven minutes behind the winner. Then again we are talking about the man who will be the Falkland Islands' sole athletics representative in Malaysia.

Hugh Marsden will not collect a medal in Kuala Lumpur but he will represent the pure, Corinthian motive of taking part rather than win-

ning. His fastest marathon time is 2hr 43min which will put him among the also-rans even before the gun goes at the start, while he is not even sure he will finish such are the steamy conditions he is likely to encounter.

It is a pointer to the weather he has been enduring on the islands he represents that he is in Manchester in pursuit of a warmer climate. And, like a win in the Tameside race, which is part of a five-event 52-mile challenge spread over six days, the sun proved elusive.

"I ran OK," the 39-year-old said, "but I was tired before the race started." The weather? "At least it's a bit better although it's been a mild winter in the Falklands."

Marsden is British-born but first moved to the Falklands in 1983 shortly after the conflict with Argentina. His father, a philatelist, had specialised in the islands' stamps and when he underlined that

Guy Hodgson discovers from the sole athletics representative of the Falklands that the idealism of sport is alive and well among those preparing for difficult conditions in Malaysia

interest by taking up a position as a doctor in the south Atlantic his son followed not long afterwards.

He has been there since, apart from studying for a masters degree in agricultural economics at Manchester University and two years in Uganda working for Voluntary Service Overseas. "I can certainly see myself staying there," he said.

Marsden will be the sole athlete in a team of eight in Malaysia that will also include five shooters and two young badminton players, but if that implies his is a lonely furrow on the islands that would be wrong. Port Stanley has a running club and with a base full of fit soldiers he is not short of opponents.

"There's a surprising number of athletes," he said. "We compete in the Island Games, which are held every two years, and I remember when we competed in Jersey the *Daily Mail* ran a report questioning why, when we had done badly in a couple of events, the Falklands were sending anyone to the Commonwealth Games. Then we got a bronze in the women's half marathon."

"Each year there's the Cape Pembroke half-marathon which attracts around 130 competitors of which 100 are from the military. It's half road, half cross-country and not dissimilar to the conditions in the Tameside events."

He may have been used to the conditions last week, but he was less comfortable with the attention. He agreed to this interview reluctantly, embarrassed that his affiliation was giving him greater prominence than athletes he regards as better runners.

"You have to realise what a great honour it is just to be selected for the Commonwealth Games and a privilege to compete at that level with some outstanding athletes. They should be getting the attention."

"Kuala Lumpur is going to be really tough because of the heat and humidity. I hate running in heat at the best of times but these Games

are a different thing all together. Let's just say it's going to be challenging."

"I was in Victoria four years ago and we were blessed with ideal weather conditions, the rain in the morning was perfect. I had seen a friend run the 10,000 metres the day before and he had to pull out halfway through just because the heat in the stadium was overpowering. The following day the weather broke and it was superb."

Which, in half-marathon terms, was pretty well the same in Ashton-under-Lyne, but not if you were trying to get some hot weather-training. Marsden will go to India for that, but his university roots apart, he owes his presence in Manchester to Roo Hill, the British winner of the Commonwealth Games marathon gold in 1970.

"Roo is trying to race in as many countries as possible," Marsden

said, "and in 1995 we invited him to the Falklands as part of a race to celebrate the 100th anniversary of moving the capital from Port Louis to Port Stanley." The two have kept in touch since and as Hill is president of the Tameside tour it was natural that Marsden should repay the older runner's visit with a detour to Manchester en route to Kuala Lumpur.

There he hopes the experience will be similar to four years ago. "The people of Victoria were so generous," he said. "I received more support than Steve Moneghetti - the Australian winner of the marathon - got and he was leading all the way round. Because Victoria is on an island I think they empathised with someone from the Falklands."

Fitting, too, for a man who will be outnumbered on the track 80 to one by the England team. In his case one man will be an island.

The slow, sad self-destruction of genius

Bestie: A Portrait of A Legend (Sidgwick and Jackson, £16.99)
By Joe Lovejoy

FOR MOST of my young teenage years I wanted to be George Best. I grew my hair El Beate-long, studied *Match of the Day* and spent long, fruitless hours on football fields trying to emulate the incomparable. (Later I would suffer similar disappointments trying to match him in the women and booze departments.)

Little did we wannabes know. The image of oar perfection - even his name, short and apposite, was tailor-made for headlines - hid a young man whose head had been turned towards self-destruction.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

We saw sublime talent, he had a grandstand view of inner turmoil. Not on the football field where he was supreme, but in the little matter of life.

Genius and drink are not unknown companions particularly in a character so manifestly lacking and the seeds for Best's downfall were sown even as he left Northern Ireland and was establishing himself with Manchester United. His mother, abstemious until she was 40 but who died an alcoholic, was a sign that arrived too late, but

others, in retrospect, were there for all to see.

His early obsessive-ness with football had later tragic echoes in his addiction to alcohol and gambling and Old Trafford's stretching of points from the very beginning would later extend to a place where they did him harm. When Best was homesick and returned to Belfast after a day, United paid for an air ticket to bring him back; when, in order to go training, the prodigy skipped work which he was obliged to do being classed as a foreigner, a blind eye was turned to a blatant contradiction of Football Association rules. The youngster was special and his treatment told him so.

This is a vodka, ports and all bi-

ography that spares the central character nothing even though it is authorised and had the co-operation of Best, his family and friends. The journey to odding acquaintance with the gutter is familiar, not least because Best has articulated it so often, but the author should be congratulated for never being satisfied with one version of an incident. As a consequence it is hard to imagine a better book on the subject.

It is in the reminiscences of friends and colleagues where the gems are unearthed, going into Old Trafford at its Best and worst of times and to this reader, at least, finding insights that are new.

It came as a surprise, for in-

stance, that Matt Busby seriously considered retirement after the European Cup failure in 1966 and that United's eminence grise vetoed attempts by his successor, Sir Alex Ferguson, to buy Mick Mills, Colin Todd and Malcolm MacDonald. Instead, persuaded by Busby, he got the clumsy and declining Ian Ure.

Not unlike the Best of today, who is exposed as a blessed and cursed figure propped up by vodka and a string of beautiful but gullible women. Likeable but pitiable his fate is uncertain but the most awful of the lot, becoming a drunken bore, is not beyond question. Be George Best? Thankfully, no.

Guy Hodgson

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 **Rough Ride - Behind the Wheel With a Pro Cyclist** By Paul Kimmage (Yellow Jersey, paperback £8.00)
- 2 **Only a Game?** By Eamon Dunphy (Penguin, paperback £6.99)
- 3 **The Sporting News Pro Football Guide 1998** (The Sporting News, paperback, £13.95)
- 4 **Gunning for the Double - The Story of Arsenal's 1997-98 Season** By Kevin Whitaker (Sporting Editions, paperback, £9.99)
- 5 **The Inside Track - The Professional Approach** By Alan Potts (Rowton Press, hardback £18.00)
- 6 **Postcards from the Beach** By Phil Tufnell (Collins Willow, paperback, £6.99)
- 7 **Miguel Indurain - A Life on Wheels** By Pabla Munoz (Moussehold Press, paperback, £9.50)
- 8 **'Winning Isn't Everything...' A Biography of Sir Alf Ramsey** By Dave Bowler (Gollancz, hardback, £16.99)
- 9 **How Long's the Course? - My Autobiography** By Roger Black (Andre Deutsch, hardback, £15.99)
- 10 **Merv - The Full Story** By Merv Hughes and Patrick Keane (Harper Sports Australia, hardback, £18.95)

List compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530)



Leap of faith: Dettori's decision to ride Swain at Ascot on Saturday was vindicated in style Robert Hallam

New strategy for old soldier Swain

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Daurid
(Newcastle 3.45)
NB: Castles Burning
(Windsor 3.15)

IT WAS a wild-eyed Frankie Dettori we saw after Saturday's King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes, jabbing himself so forcibly with a forefinger that there must have been a fear he would puncture his chest. It may have been a gesture of frustration, out of camera shot, by others in his camp.

Dettori's jubilation had an obvious root. This time last year he mistakenly ignored Swain and selected Singpass as his chosen one. On Saturday he correctly rejected the option of riding Godolphin's Daylam.

The vindication for Godolphin themselves though was that they chose to keep Swain in training at all. The King George is not a contest that horses win twice. It is competitive but, more importantly, among the prizes for the winner is usually a first-class ticket to the breeding sheds. This largely explains why Swain, apart, the only animal to have won the contest on more than one occasion is Dahlia, a filly.

Godolphin's decision to keep their six-year-old rolling on looked to be rather shaky before Saturday. Then Swain blew away another generation of great horses and his connections also exhaled, with relief.

"Older horses provide racers with pleasure because everyone becomes familiar with them and, to stay in training, they have to be good anyway," Simon Crisford, the Godolphin racing manager, said yesterday. "But, of course, that has got to be weighed up by us against what value they have as potential stallions. Once a horse wins the King George they become so valuable they don't have the opportunity to stay in training.

eroded and battle fatigue had set in. But if we imagined Swain had reached the stage of showing off his medals in a service men's club rather than earning any more on the globe's fields of conflict we were about to be proved quite wrong.

Happy Valentine was rather late getting to his appointment as the pacemaker, but there after he pounced out a quite murderous gallop. Royal Anthem followed him closely and Swain with a degree more circumspection. Royal Anthem took it up in the straight, but then Swain got him, and such is the fibre of this horse that he soon knew that the new leader would not in turn be ambushed.

It was a fast time and an immediate reaction. Dettori prodded himself, waved his fist at Olivier Peslier on the runner-up High-Rise, and then, rather ungraciously, gave Swain a slap on the rump for his troubles. The Italian remained animated until he received his prize from The Queen, who was wearing something dangerously close to a leopardskin pattern. The jockey revealed the details of his stalk and pounce.

This was also a great victory for the class of '95. The last four runnings of the King George have now fallen to the Classic crop of that year, Swain's victories following those of Lammtarra and Pentire. Swain, in fact, could now quite legitimately be considered the best active middle-distance horse in the world, especially as his narrow conqueror in the Dubai World Cup, Silver Charm, bled so badly in defeat at Del Mar in California on Saturday. Swain himself is likely to be back in North America later in

the year for the Breeders' Cup Turf, following the Irish Champion Stakes and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. After that, a career which has thus far produced 18 starts, seven wins, only two runs out of the first three and over £1.82m in prize-money may be over. Sheikh Mohammed, Godolphin's leader, was as likely to admit on Saturday he is a dog-beater as say that Swain was on the brink of going to the breeding pastures. That, though, seems the reality. "I think he can be marketed very successfully as a stallion," Simon Crisford said. "He can make it. He has a wonderful pedigree."

"Having won two King Georges, and with everyone saying how much they like the horse, there is every chance that he will stay with us."

In the aftermath of Saturday's rich encounter William Hill produced an ante-post market for the Arc which established that any glory that was going was confined to the track itself. They quoted Swain at 6-1 for Paris and 18 other horses to make up an over-round of 150 per cent plus. It was pathetic and it proved High-Rise was not the only figure to suit himself this weekend. Remember instead the triumph of Swain.

■ Ireland's biggest betting meeting, the Galway Festival, starts tonight with the Galway Handicap featuring Theatreworld and Space Trucker the highlight. The meeting also sees the return to action of Richard Dunwoody, who has been on the sidelines since May with a neck injury. "I've got five or six rides booked but I'll just ride over hurdles this week," Dunwoody said yesterday.

NEWCASTLE

HYPERION

2.15 Trinity 3.45 Royal Mark
2.45 Alm High 4.15 Saintes
3.15 Law Review 4.45 Sing And Dance

GOING: Straight course - Good, Good to Firm in places. Round course - Good to Firm Good in places. STALLS: 1m 2' - far side, 1m 4' - inside, rest - standard side. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** Good, may be best up to and including 1m.

Left-hand, oval course, tough gallop 1000.

Course is on A1 M of 10m from New Line Ends from Newcastle station. Bus service from there. **ADMISSION:** Club £4 (£2 OAPs and disabled); Tattersalls £3 (£2 OAPs and disabled); Silver Ring £4 (£2 OAPs and disabled). **CAR PARK:** Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: M. Dorey 22 wins from 100 races (22.0%), J. Berry 20-55 (41.9%), Mrs J. Ridd 16-12 (11.2%), Sir M. Stoute 12-53 (22.9%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: J. Wootton 27 wins from 152 rides (17.8%), K. Dwyer 22-59 (12.9%), J. Carroll 21-16 (19.9%), J. Fortune 17-57 (12.1%).

FAVOURITES: 12-15 (12.9%), 16-17 (12.9%), 18-19 (12.9%), 20-21 (12.9%), 22-23 (12.9%), 24-25 (12.9%), 26-27 (12.9%), 28-29 (12.9%), 30-31 (12.9%), 32-33 (12.9%), 34-35 (12.9%), 36-37 (12.9%), 38-39 (12.9%), 40-41 (12.9%), 42-43 (12.9%), 44-45 (12.9%), 46-47 (12.9%), 48-49 (12.9%), 50-51 (12.9%), 52-53 (12.9%), 54-55 (12.9%), 56-57 (12.9%), 58-59 (12.9%), 60-61 (12.9%), 62-63 (12.9%), 64-65 (12.9%), 66-67 (12.9%), 68-69 (12.9%), 70-71 (12.9%), 72-73 (12.9%), 74-75 (12.9%), 76-77 (12.9%), 78-79 (12.9%), 80-81 (12.9%), 82-83 (12.9%), 84-85 (12.9%), 86-87 (12.9%), 88-89 (12.9%), 90-91 (12.9%), 92-93 (12.9%), 94-95 (12.9%), 96-97 (12.9%), 98-99 (12.9%), 100-101 (12.9%), 102-103 (12.9%), 104-105 (12.9%), 106-107 (12.9%), 108-109 (12.9%), 110-111 (12.9%), 112-113 (12.9%), 114-115 (12.9%), 116-117 (12.9%), 118-119 (12.9%), 120-121 (12.9%), 122-123 (12.9%), 124-125 (12.9%), 126-127 (12.9%), 128-129 (12.9%), 130-131 (12.9%), 132-133 (12.9%), 134-135 (12.9%), 136-137 (12.9%), 138-139 (12.9%), 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Fraser a man at the top of his trade

EVERY CAPTAIN would like to have an Angus Fraser in his side. No one has ever given more for his team and as fast-medium seam bowlers go there cannot have been many with a better understanding of the job.

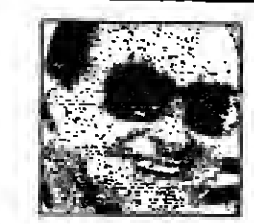
It was interesting to read that when it was recently suggested to him that he might have made more use of the yorker and of the slower ball during his career, he was inclined to agree, saying that he has spent so much of his time trying to perfect the essentials he has not given them the time that he might.

The South African batsmen who faced him now, just like the West Indians who did battle with him during the winter, will not have noticed any deficiencies or shortcomings in Fraser. For over after over, for hour after hour, he goes on putting the ball in the right place.

Fraser is an apparently unemotional perfectionist. He has practised relentlessly until he has developed his art to its present state.

Watching him in the field is an object lesson. His concentration never waivers, he indulges in no frivolities. At the end of an over, he takes his sweater and cap from the umpire and walks steadily down to third man or fine-leg going through the over he has just bowled. While the next over is in progress, he thinks about the over he is just going to bowl.

When the over from the other end has finished, he strides out for the bowling crease and if a colleague comes to take his cap and sweater from him, Fraser hands it over and heads for the end of his run. There is no chatter, no break in concentration, no pause or uncertainty; he is a technician getting on with his job or doing what he does best.



HENRY BLOFELD
AT TRENT BRIDGE

At the end of a day's bowling, the footmarks along his run-up are etched into the grass. There is a relentlessness in his canter up to the wicket.

When he takes a wicket he celebrates but without the wild abandon of some. As he goes through his high fives he seems to suggest that too much of a celebration might be inappropriate and he soon turns his attention to his next adversary.

In the Port of Spain Test in February, he punched the air a couple of times when he dismissed Brian Lara for the second time in the match and then looked slightly ashamed.

There is nothing in the least metronomic about him. Fraser is a supremely high-class tradesman who puts his skills to their best possible use.

Yesterday morning he bowled 11 overs straight off in 90 minutes for 21 runs and one wicket. He gave nothing away as he piled up the pressure on one batsman after another.

After lunch he was immediately back in action. In 6.3 overs he took 3 for 20 and if the need had been there, I daresay he would have been bowling at tea.

Fraser is a fierce patriot too. Four years ago, he and I had words during the Test against South Africa at Lord's after he had heard me say on Test Match Special that England had nothing to hope for and were looking a well-beaten side.

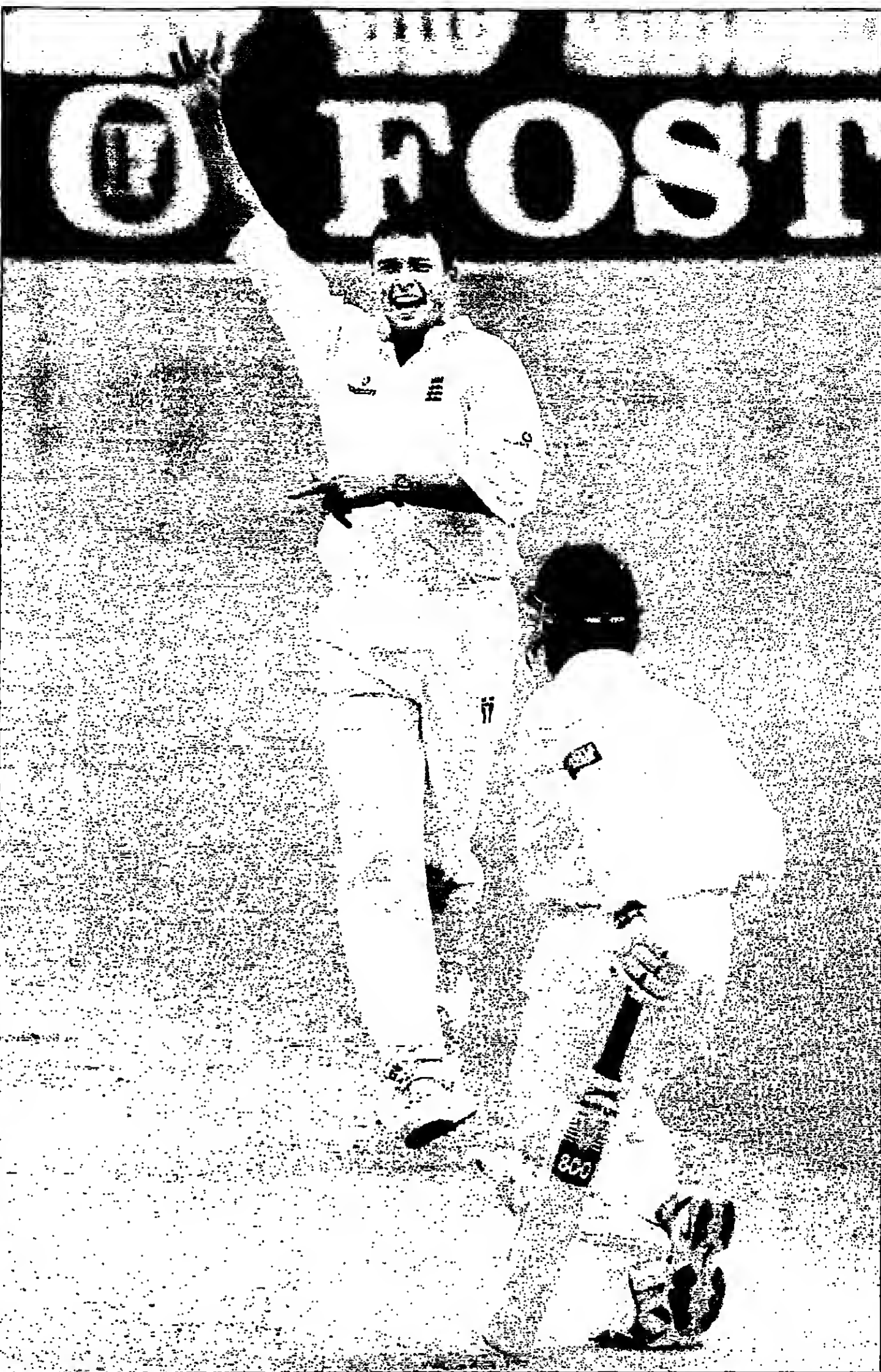
In one of the marqueees he ticked me off for saying this. Fraser hates defeat and refuses to countenance it even though it was inevitable then and South Africa won by 356 runs. This is the cut of one of the most admirable of all cricketers.

FRASER'S RECORD

Angus Fraser yesterday became the second Englishman to take 10 wickets in a match against South Africa since they returned to international cricket.

Most recent Englishman to take 10 wickets in a match against South Africa

A R C Fraser	10-122 (5-60, 6-62)
(Trent Bridge, 1998)	
D E Malcolm	10-138 (1-81, 9-57)
(The Oval, 1994)	
J B Southern	11-97 (6-63, 5-34)
(Lord's, 1960)	
J H Wardle	12-89 (5-53, 7-36)
(Cape Town, 1956-7)	
A V Bedser	12-112 (7-58, 5-54)
(Old Trafford, 1951)	
C Laker	10-119 (4-84, 6-55)
(The Oval, 1951)	
R Tattersall	12-101 (7-52, 5-49)
(Lord's, 1951)	



Angus Fraser celebrates dismissing South Africa's No 11 Paul Adams yesterday. It was his fifth wicket of the innings. David Ashdown

Tolley blitz brings Hampshire back to reality

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN
at Portsmouth

Nottinghamshire 167-6
Hampshire 137
Nottinghamshire win by 30 runs

HAMPSHIRE'S FLIRTATION with the high life of the Sunday League took a sharp downturn yesterday. A burst of three wickets in eight balls by Nottinghamshire's Chris Tolley contributed greatly to their second successive Sunday League defeat. In a match reduced slightly - three overs were knocked off the statutory 40 by rain - Hampshire found the going too heavy and failed to get round the course.

The target might have appeared modest, but an awkward pitch, slow but showing a certain degree of bounce, was utilised slightly better by the Nottinghamshire bowlers. Only John Stephenson with a thoughtful half-century - his second in successive innings - and a brief blaze from Dimitri Mascarenhas were able to provide the home fans with any pleasure.

Hampshire's captain, Robin Smith, playing his first match since breaking his right index finger three weeks ago, emerged wearing a special protective device over his index and middle fingers, but was out having faced four balls, before having a chance to test himself in preparation for tomorrow's NatWest Trophy quarter-final tie against Middlesex at Lord's. Mascarenhas and Stephenson added 52 for the fifth wicket, but thereafter things all went Nottinghamshire's way. Tolley finished with 3 for 22 and the England Under-19 all-rounder, Paul Franks, with 3 for 32.

The Hampshire bowlers had themselves fulfilled one of the major prerequisites of the one-day game, by giving very little away. Not until the end of the innings, when the Pauls - Strang and Franks - laid into the attack, were runs anything like forthcoming. The pair of them put on an unbeaten 45 in just 25 balls, with Strang hoisting Tolley for a straight six in his 16-ball innings. Franks contributed 17, again off 16 deliveries - his best score in the Sunday League - to the unbroken seventh-wicket partnership.

After the start they had suffered, it was something bordering the miraculous that Nottinghamshire managed to score so many runs. They already had two of their batsmen back in the pavilion when their innings was barely half a dozen overs old. Paul Johnson and Guy Welton both fell before wicket, the former to Cardigan Connor, the latter to the speedy West Indies Test bowler, Nixon McLean.

It needed a circumspect approach for Nottinghamshire to master the movement through the air and off the pitch, and they duly got it from Graeme Archer and Jason Gallian. The pair of them had to sweat for every one of the 60 runs they put on for the third wicket. Archer was the more belligerent of the two, hitting five boundaries to Gallian's two, and by the time Hampshire got anywhere near taking his wicket - when Giles White, running back from midwicket could not quite reach the ball - he had already reached 34.

Stephenson had him three runs later, superbly taken at backward point by Shaun Udal. By then Gallian was long gone, caught behind by Adrian Aymes for 31. The Strang-Franks flurry was just the last of the innings needed, but there was still a clutch of respectable figures from the Hampshire bowlers. Stephenson the pick of them with 2 for 28.

Muralitharan's magic Law reform rescues Essex

Leicestershire 245 & 34-5
Sri Lanka 509

MUTHIAH MURALITHARAN, the Sri Lankan spinner, brought his wicket's haul to 17 in two games and put the tourists in sight of their first victory at Grace Road yesterday.

Leicestershire start the final day at 204 for 5 in their second innings still trailing by 30 runs. Muralitharan took 4 for 77 in 32 overs to put Sri Lanka in command after they had earlier amassed 509 for a first innings lead of 264.

Leicestershire then replied in solid fashion with an opening partnership of 53 between Darren Maddy and Iain Sutherland before Muralitharan began to spin his magic. He had already taken 10 wickets in the two-day defeat at Glamorgan and three in the first innings of this match.

This time, bowling from the pavilion end, he posed Leicestershire all sorts of problems and removed the top three batsmen in 26 balls at a cost of just five runs.

The home side's acting captain, Ben Smith, along with Aftab Habib frustrated Sri Lanka with a fourth wicket stand of 84 before Muralitharan struck again trapping

habib bow, Smith, however, continued to defy the Sri Lankan attack and looked on course for a century until on 75 he popped up an easy catch to short midwicket off the occasional bowling of Aravinda De Silva.

Paul Nixon and John Dakin saw Leicestershire through to the close without further loss but they still face a huge task to avoid defeat.

Earlier Sri Lanka progressed to 509 all out with Hashan Tilakaratne top-scoring with 120. Dakin, who had top-scored for Leicestershire with 79 in their first innings, was their most successful bowler claiming 4 wickets.

DANNY LAW picked a perfect moment to find his form and keep struggling Essex in touch at the bottom of the County Championship.

The former Sussex all-rounder scored only his fourth Championship fifty in two seasons to guide Essex to a remarkable victory at Edgbaston on Saturday, when they reached a target of 332 to beat Warwickshire by two wickets.

Law used a mixture of sensible application and a late assault on Neil Smith's bowling to take Essex to the brink of only their second victory of the Championship season. With 44 still wanted, Law changed the tempo

of a 74-run stand with Barry Hyam hitting the off-spinner Smith for three fours and a six in one over.

Despite gathering 20 points for winning, Essex found themselves at the bottom of the table because of victories that Somerset and Northamptonshire completed on Friday.

Yorkshire's ninth-wicket pair of Chris Silverwood and Richard Stemp kept out the final 45 balls to earn their side a draw after they had failed in pursuit of a 321 target in 79 overs for victory over Middlesex.

The match at Lord's became a gripping contest on the final evening either side could have won.

Yorkshire began the final 16 overs in the last hour needing 93 but Darren Lehmann was caught behind for 93 with the score on 260. Yorkshire lost three wickets in seven balls in slipping to 261 for 8. With their chance gone and Middlesex now scenting victory, Yorkshire had to rely on the survival instincts of Silverwood and Stemp.

Mike Gatting and David Goodchild, playing only his second county match, had earlier created a Middlesex second-wicket record against Yorkshire of 197 as they hurried from 106 for 1 overnight to 207 for 1 only 15.3 overs before the declaration.

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AXA Life League

Gloucestershire v Lancashire

COURTNEY BAY (One Day):
Match abandoned, rain, no result

Gloucestershire v Surrey

GLENN HARRIS (One Day):
Gloucestershire won toss

Gloucestershire

Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mn	
G I Macmillan c J N Batty b Benjamin	13	0	2	14	27
R I Dawson b Bell	68	0	12	83	90
M W Alleyne c J N Batty b Bell	18	0	2	32	
R C Russell c B C Hollister b G J Barry	29	0	4	60	69
M G N Windows c Ruffell b B C Hollister	2	0	53	55	
M J Church c Bell b B C Hollister	4	0	1	3	4
T C Bailey c Knox b B C Hollister	1	0	1	14	
M C Bell not out	15	1	1	7	10
J Lewis c Knox b B C Hollister	2	0	0	2	3
M J Cawston not out	2	0	0	4	
Extras (b4 lb13 w10 nb4)	31				
Total (for 8, 40 overs)	261				
1st Inn (for 16, 32.4 overs)	207				
2nd Inn (for 16, 32.4 overs)	207				

Did not bat: C A Walsh

Bowling: J E Benjamin 8-0-40-1, A C Hollister 8-0-71-2, A Hollister 8-0-45-2, M A V Bell 8-0-56-2, G J Barry 8-0-32-1.

Surrey

Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mn	
I J Ward c Russell b Lewis	16	0	1	24	20
A O Brown c Hancock b Lewis	14	1	1	13	26
J O Ruffell b Lewis	80	4	5	70	95
N Shand c Bell b Hancock	0	0	0	7	4
B C Hollister bow b Hancock	0	0	0	1	0
J A Knox not out	86	0	10	87	88
J A Hollister not out	3	0	0	3	4
Extras (b5 w2 nb6)	11				
Total (for 16, 32.4 overs)	207				
1st Inn (for 16, 32.4 overs)	207				
2nd Inn (for 16, 32.4 overs)	207				

To bat: J N Batty, M A V Bell, J E Benjamin, G J Barry, B C Hollister, C A Walsh 6-1-20-0, J Lewis 7-4-140-3, J O Ruffell 5-0-30-2, M J Cawston 5-1-26-0, M C Bell 6-0-35-0, M W Alleyne 4-0-39-0.

Umpires: M J Harris and R A White.

Hampshire v Nottinghamshire

PORTSMOUTH (One day):

Hampshire won toss

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mn
G E Walton bow b McLean	2	0	0	0	8
J E R Gallian b Aymes b Hartley	31	0	2	59	74
P Johnson bow b Connor	9	0	1	18	16
G F Archer c Udal b Stephenson	37	0	4	56	73
M P Downman c Aymes b Udal	22	1	1	37	41
C M Tolley c Hartley b Stephenson	0	0	12	7	
P J Franks not out	17	0	2	16	25
P A Strang not out	28	1	3	16	15
Extras (b13 w8)	21				
Total (for 6, 37 overs)	167				
1st Inn (for 6, 37 overs)	167				
2nd Inn (for 6, 37 overs)	167				
Did not bat: T F Bloomfield, D C Nash, A W Laraman, C J Bass, T F Bloomfield.					
Bowling: M J Hoggard 5-0-21-0, P M Hutchinson 6-0-29-1, A McGrath 6-1-27-2, R II Stemp 6-0-42-1, J O Middlebrook 2-0-19-0, B Parker 2-0-19-0, D S Lehmann 1-0-13-0.					

YORKSHIRE

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mn
L Savident c Evans b Tolley	15	0	0	32	46
J P Stephenson c Archer b Bates	39	3	2	84	101
M A M McLean c Bates b Tolley	3	0	0	8	6
G W White c Gallian b Tolley	0	0	0	1	0
R A Smith bow b Strang	1	0	0	2	
A O Mascarenhas c Archer b Bates	27	0	2	57	52
P J Hartley c Bates b Evans	2	0	0	9	4
I A N Aymes c Johnson b Franks	5	0	1	10	14
S O Udal not out	0	1	0	1	5
Extras (b4 w1 nb4)	9				
Total (for 8, 34 overs)	129				
1st Inn (for 8, 34 overs)	129				
2nd Inn (for 8, 34 overs)	129				
To bat: A C Morris, C A Connors, B C Hollister, K P Evans 6-0-24-1, P J Franks 7-1-31-1, C M Tolley 6-1-15-3, P A Strang 8-1-17-1, R II Bates 7-0-38-2.					
Umpires: J H Hampshire and O R Shepherd.					

Middlesex v Yorkshire

LORD'S (One day):
Yorkshire won toss
MIDDLESEX

Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mn	
K R Brown c Blakey b McGrath	19	0	3	27	39
J L Langer bow b Hutchinson	86	2	8	79	193
D A Shah b Stemp	5	0	0	10	105
R L Johnson b McGrath	2	0	0	4	2
P M Veitch not out	42	0	3	47	46
K P Dorch not out	7	0	1	3	1
Extras (b2 lb6 w8 nb4)	11				
Total (for 4, 28 overs)	177				
1st Inn (for 4, 28 overs)	177				
2nd Inn (for 4, 28 overs)	177				
Did not bat: D J Goodchild, D C Nash, A W Laraman, C J Bass, T F Bloomfield.					
Bowling: M J Hoggard 5-0-21-0, P M Hutchinson 6-0-29-1, A McGrath 6-1-27-2, R II Stemp 6-0-42-1, J O Middlebrook 2-0-19-0, B Parker 2-0-19-0, D S Lehmann 1-0-13-0.					

YORKSHIRE

Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mn	
O Bays c Laraman b Bass	18	0	0	38	50
M P Vaughan c Langer b Bloomfield	1	0	0	4	4
D S Lehmann b Bloomfield	5	0	0	11	19
M J Wood b Bass	5	0	1	4	4
A McGrath c Langer b Bass	2	0	0	6	8
B Parker c Brown b Dorch	33	0	5	32	37
R J Blakey c Brown b Dorch	26	0	2	36	44
J O Middlebrook c Johnson b Dorch	0	0	0	10	10
R O Stemp not out	9	0	1	5	6
M J Hoggard not out	1	0	0	1	0
Extras (b7 w9 nb8)	24				
Total (for 8, 23.5 overs)	129				
1st Inn (for 8, 23.5 overs)	129				
2nd Inn (for 8, 23.5 overs)	129				
To bat: P M Hutchinson, T F Bloomfield 6-1-19-2, C J Bass 6-0-26-3, A W Laraman 5-0-20-4, R L Johnson 2-0-23-0, K P Dorch 3-0-23-3, J L Langer 3-0-18-4.					
Umpires: J W Holder and G Sharp.					

ICKET SCOREBOARD

Northamptonshire

NORTHAMPTON (One day)
Derbyshire won toss
DERBYSHIRE

Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mn
M J Slater c Penberthy b Swann	42	1	2	55
K J Barrett c Warren b Follett	10	0	1	19
R M S Watson not out	0	0	2	3
M E Cassar c Walton b Curran	134	2	16	108
P A J DeFreitas c and b Taylor	89	5	6	42
B J Spence bow b Taylor	5	0	1	3
V P Clarke not out	15	0	1	14
J N Snape c Dean b DeFreitas	11	0	0	0
G M Roberts not out	0	0	0	0
Extras (b1 lb3 w8 nb4)	11			
Total (for 5, 40 overs)	288			
1st Inn (for 5, 40 overs)	288			
2nd Inn (for 5, 40 overs)	288			
Did not bat: K R Krikken, S J Lacey, K J Dean, J P Taylor 8-0-63-1, K M Curran 4-0-34-1, G P Swann 5-0-45-2, J N Snape 8-0-46-0.				
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE				
Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mn
M B Loye c Krikken b Dean	4	0	0	10
1P J Warren c Roberts	20	0	2	29
G P Swann c Cassar b DeFreitas	6	0	1	3
K M Curran c Krikken b Roberts	42	1	2	49
A L Penberthy c Roberts b Dean	71	2	7	70
O J Sales not out	26	1	5	24
T C Walton not out	17	0	2	15
Extras (b7 w7)	16			
Total (for 7, 35 overs)	228			
1st Inn (for 7, 35 overs)	228			
2nd Inn (for 7, 35 overs)	228			
To bat: J P Taylor, D Follett, F A Rose, J P Taylor 8-0-63-1, K M Curran 4-0-34-1, G P Swann 5-0-45-2, J N Snape 8-0-46-0.				
Umpires: J C Balderson and J W Lloyds.				

Somerset v Durham

TAUNTON (One day)
Somerset won toss
DURHAM

Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mn
J E Morton c Parsons b Cadogan	1	0	0	1
D B Cooley not out	0	0	0	0
N J Speak not out	0	0	0	0
1M P Speight c Burns b Raza	0	0	0	0

Derbyshire

TAUNTON (One Day):
Derbyshire won toss
SOMERSET

Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mn	
J E Morris c Parsons b Coddick	1	0	0	5	5
D C Bacon not out	33	0	6	37	44
N J Speak not out	50	0	7	111	145
M P Speight c Burns b Rose	4	0	0	7	15
Extras (b5 w1 nb12)	30				
Total (182.4 overs)	509				
1st Inn (for 182.4 overs)	509				
2nd Inn (for 182.4 overs)	509				
To bat: J E Morris, C Parsons b Coddick, D C Bacon not out, N J Speak not out, M P Speight c Burns b Rose.					
Umpires: J C Balderson and J W Lloyds.					

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Medals

Medals	46	3	6	72
	21	0	2	15
	118			

4-178, 5-218
Wickets, N C Phillips, M J Suggers, J J

Parsons A R 42-64, **Bush-Jones P** 4-15-0, **Murphy** 4-20-6, **Coddick C** 4-22-6

Runs 6s 4s Bs Mn
Suggers 31 0 5 41 37
Sight b Phillips 52 0 6 70 99
M 112 0 5 7
J 43 0 5 55 75
M 1 1 4 29 30
J 9
S 173 8

Wickets 4-178, 5-218
Wickets, C R Rose, A R

Parsons A R 30-50, **J Harrison** 8-2-32-0, **M J Suggers** 4-0-26-0, **P C Collins** 4-11-1, **N C Phillips** 4-9-6

Challenge Series

Sri Lanka

Leicestershire are 30 runs behind with five wickets in hand.

First Innings 245 (Dakin 79)

Second Innings 442 (for 7 overs)

First Innings Count

Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mn	
G P Wickramasinghe bow b Williamson	130	0	16	163	233
H P Tillakaratne bow b Williamson	6	0	1	26	16
S A Perera c Williamson b Crowe	26	0	4	57	62
M Muralitharan not out	7	0	1	6	3
Extras (b5 lb19 w1 nb12)	30				
Total (182.4 overs)	509				
1st Inn (for 182.4 overs)	509				
2nd Inn (for 182.4 overs)	509				
To bat: J E Morris, C Parsons b Coddick, D C Bacon not out, N J Speak not out, M P Speight c Burns b Rose.					
Umpires: J C Balderson and J W Lloyds.					

J M Dakin 38-6-110-4, D J Milne 10-1-140, D L Mody 26-11-3, C D Crowe 33-8-120-1, M T Brimacombe 2-0-1, Maddy 10-2-47-0.

LEICESTERSHIRE — SRI LANKA

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D L Mody c D Jayawardene	29	0	2	108	117
B F Smith b Muralitharan	15	0	2	62	89
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B F Smith c Aravinda de Silva	19	0	12	134	142
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Arsenal hit by World Cup legacy

THE ARSENAL manager, Arsène Wenger, has admitted that he is worried about the disruption caused to the champions' pre-season build-up by the absence of their World Cup players.

The Gunners flew out yesterday to a 10-day training camp in Germany, but Emmanuel Petit, Patrick Vieira, Dennis Bergkamp and Marc Overmars will all be missing.

Arsenal, who have denied claims that Real Madrid are trying to sign Bergkamp, played a second-string side in a 1-1 draw at Luton yesterday and Wenger said the team will only have one real pre-season test - the Charity Shield against Manchester United.

He said: "We have to work on a lot of things and we still do not have all our players, it is a

worry. But when you are at a club like Arsenal you have to adapt to every situation, and it happens after a World Cup.

"At the moment we have just one real pre-season game and that is against Man United at Wembley," he said.

Wenger confirmed that he had withdrawn his interest in Ronald de Boer - Tottenham are now among four clubs interested in the Dutch midfielder and his brother Frank, according to their agent, Roh Jansen - but said he still plans to make signings.

Real Madrid had been linked with a possible bid for Bergkamp. Their new manager, Gus Hiddink, is a long-time admirer of his fellow Dutchman and would love to start his rebuilding with the PFA Player of the Year. Hiddink said: "Dennis

is an outstanding player and anyone would want him in his team. He is the best player in Holland and he was extremely valuable to us during the World Cup."

Wenger, meanwhile, has warned of the dangers looming for the English national side if foreign players continue to flood the Premiership and block out opportunities for home-grown talent.

And although he feels that youth development in the British game is starting to flourish again after a lull over the past 10 or 15 years, there will nevertheless be an ensuing drought of young domestic talent for some years to come.

Wenger said: "It's frightening for the young English players. There is more obstruction to their future. Before, you used to be able to say that although Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea had foreign players, the young players could get a chance at clubs like Coventry and Southampton. But even Coventry and Southampton have many foreign players now. If you have a choice between two players of the same level, you always pay £2-3m less abroad."

"In the interests of the national side, a restriction on foreign players would be better, but that is simply not possible and the world is developing."

"The national team in England is also in danger because, with the wages that clubs are paying, they won't accept that the players will come back tired and fed up with football because they've been playing with the national team. It's ridiculous."

"We invest a lot of money in our youth system to improve the game, as I think we didn't do enough for a while here at Arsenal," conceded Wenger.

"But I think generally this work with the youth teams has not been good enough in the last 10 or 15 years. It does work well now, but there is a delay before it starts to work."

The contrast with his native France is clear. It is surely no coincidence that the World Cup champions have been winning international youth competitions for many years.

"Why is the French national team strong? All the French players play abroad and have international experience with their clubs, while the youth players can play in the top [French] teams so they get the best of both worlds," said Wenger.



Manchester United's Mark Twiss is caught by a sliding tackle from Birmingham's Jon McCarthy

Reuters

Venables hides his despair at Intertoto failure

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

Samsunspor 2
Crystal Palace 0
Samsunspor win 4-0 on agg

IF THE symmetry was perfect, little else was about Palace, beaten 2-0 by Samsunspor in both legs of their Intertoto Cup third-round tie.

Yet it was not as if Terry Venables was complaining at the manner of his new club's exit from Europe's most maligned club competition alongside the Black Sea in Turkey on Saturday night.

"I thought we did quite well," he said when everything about him had suggested he was in despair. If Venables was not being warned by UEFA's fourth official for stepping too close to the pitch, he was slumping wearily alongside his assistant Terry Fenwick in the dug-out or admonishing his players. But that was a misleading impression.

Venables was not, he revealed afterwards, having a go at them. "I was saying 'come on, we can get better, we can get something out of this,'" he said.

The players will soon learn that little about Venables is predictable these days. For anyone else but Palace's much travelled manager it might have seemed perverse to travel such a distance from Selhurst Park for a first look at his players, who discovered that friendly greetings from the locals were in alarmingly short supply.

"Welcome to Samsun hell," exclaimed the banner draped over the terraces, which was enough to persuade local armed police to escort Palace's intrepid travelling contingent from behind the goal to the best seats in the main stand just behind their gesticulating manager.

David Tuttle and Andy Linighan, who had both been restored to the defence, were the players who most impressed Venables. In front of that experienced pair were Hayden Mullins, a reserve defender who adapted well to a midfield position; and another industrious second-teamer Steve Thomson. Injuries had deprived Palace of Attilio Lombardo and Sasa Kuric while suspension ruled out Paul Warhurst. "Unbelievable," exclaimed Venables. "That was the result of something that happened at Blackburn three years ago and it's still hanging over him."

Whatever the limited selection available to Palace, Venables still possessed a first-choice goalkeeper in Kevin Miller who flapped horribly at a teasing third-minute shot from Imdat Ugur squared the loose ball to Serkan who scored easily. "It was a bit fluky," said Venables. "Miller came out naturally expecting a cross."

Miller partially redeemed himself with a series of smart saves, but still seems to be lacking the confidence that drained from him, trying to halt Palace's irresistible fall down the Premiership last winter. There was, however, little that Palace goalkeeper could do about Serkan's second goal which was expertly chipped over him following an exquisite pass from Erman. Nothing so enterprising came from Palace who seriously threatened only in the 75th minute when Clinton Morrison shot against the bar.

Matt Jansen who had created the chance was once again Palace's most dangerous attacker, with his determined lone raids. "Is he really English?" asked one Turk in surprise.

Samsunspor: Altun, Erman, Imdat, Guizer, Erman, Cengiz, Nural, Saz, Serkan, Turner (All, 40), Cengiz, Ugur (40, 60), Serkan.
Crystal Palace: Miller, Smith (Barrow, 50), Austin, Linighan, Tuttle, Thomson (Robert, 78), Edworthy, Mullins, Hedderson, Shipperley (Morrison, 57), Jansen.
Bookings: Samsunspor: Erman; Palace: Mullins.
Referee: G Grabner (Austria).
Man of the match: Serkan.

Perez aiming to make mark

THE FORMER Sunderland goalkeeper, Lionel Perez, embarked on his first trip with new club Newcastle yesterday hoping to secure himself the No 1 shirt in the side.

The pre-season tour of Ireland kicks off against Bohemians today and the Republic of Ireland goalkeeper, Shay Given, is aware that Frenchman Perez is waiting in the wings for any slip-up.

Perez was stunned but delighted when Kenny Dalglish rang him out of the blue to ask him to join Sunderland's dead-end rivals. He said: "It didn't take me long to decide to sign for Newcastle. Once I knew that negotiations with Peter Reid weren't going to result in a deal I wanted to sign for another English club, my family loves it here. But to stay in the North-east with Newcastle was even better."

Newcastle will be without their World Cup players as well as Bayern Munich midfielder Dietmar Hamann, who is expected to sign after undergoing a medical in the next 72 hours.

The Sports Minister, Tony Banks, is hoping a letter he has written to the president of the Korean Football Association will finally bury the idea that

England is standing by to stage the 2002 World Cup.

In the letter Banks apologised for rumours that South Korea might withdraw from hosting the event. "I was extremely concerned to see that the British Press is once again running the story that Korea might withdraw from hosting the 2002 World Cup, and that England is standing by," he wrote.

"These reports did not emanate from me or from the Football Association, whatever the Press might allege. England's interest is only in 2006 and I can only apologise for any embarrassment or problems this further wave of Press speculation may have caused you."

The letter was sent to Chung Mong-Joon, president of the Korean Football Association. World Cup organisers in Seoul have dismissed as "groundless" reports that South Korea were seeking to get out of hosting the event because of their economic crisis.

● England marked Hope Powell's first game as national women's coach with a spirited performance as they went down 1-0 to a late goal against Sweden at Dagenham and Redbridge yesterday.

Beckham's Oslo start

BY ADAM SZRETER

Birmingham City 4
Manchester United 3

NOT FOR the first time in his career Alex Ferguson failed to deliver what the fans wanted on Saturday at St Andrew's, but as it was the head of David Beckham they were calling for the Manchester United manager could be excused for disappointing them on this occasion. Instead, they saw an outstanding performance from Beckham's replacement, the 20-year-old Northern Ireland international Phil Mulryne who helped himself to a well-taken hat-trick in an otherwise meaningless pre-season friendly.

In leaving Beckham out of the starting line-up, Ferguson elected to do without any of his World Cup players in an attempt, perhaps, to deflect attention away from a player who knows he is in for some serious barracking when he eventually does show his face in

England again following his moment of disastrous indiscipline in St Etienne.

West Ham fans, who will see United at Upton Park on the opening day of the season, are rumoured to have produced thousands of red cards to welcome Beckham back to east London, where he grew up, while the Birmingham manager, Trevor Francis, issued an appeal in the local press prior to this game for supporters to show clemency.

In the event it was not necessary and instead Beckham may be reintroduced to the United side - along with Paul Scholes, Teddy Sheringham, Gary Neville, the three Norwegians and Jaap Stam - in tonight's friendly against the Norwegian First Division side Valerenga. If Beckham gets barracked in Oslo, he may as well just carry on going north. Mulryne, meanwhile, positively revelled in the England man's absence. "We've always known he has tremendous ability," Ferguson said. "He just has to get that strength to play at the top level."

On Saturday he seemed as strong as anyone in the United side, and having made his full debut on the final day of last season it would be no surprise to see him making significant progress this year. His third goal here came from the penalty spot, but only after Mulryne himself had been tripped in the area after a wonderful run through the Birmingham defence.

Ironically, Mulryne may not have played at all had it not been for an ankle injury picked up by United's captain, Roy Keane, in training last Thursday. Keane's own long-awaited comeback has now been postponed until this weekend at the earliest and, in his absence, Denis Irwin captained the side and played in an unfamiliar sweeper's role behind David May and Ronnie Wallwork. It was not a conspicuous success, Irwin being withdrawn shortly after Peter Ndlovu had

completed a hat-trick of his own for Birmingham City, who have now added the scalp of United to that of Tottenham in pre-season friendlies.

Ryan Giggs roamed around to good effect on the left of United's three-man midfield, but it was hard to draw any conclusions about where Giggs might be played when new signing Jesper Blomqvist is fit. Up front Andy Cole, who made Mulryne's first two goals, drew praise from Francis for his movement off the ball but it may not be enough to save his United career now that Ferguson seems prepared to offload him to Aston Villa in an attempt to bring Dwight Yorke to Old Trafford.

Goals: Ndlovu (5) 1-0; Mulryne (26) 1-1; Ndlovu (31) 2-1; Mulryne (40) 2-2; Furlong (46) 2-3; Ndlovu (55) 4-2; Mulryne (60) 5-2.
Birmingham City (4-4-2): Bennett; Bass, Abbott, Johnson, Charlton; McCarthy, O'Connor, Marsden (Granger, 66), Ndlovu (Robinson, 66), Adubola (Forster, 71), Furlong.
Manchester United (5-3-2): Cullin; Currie, May, Irwin (Twiss, 55), Wallwork, P. Neville; Mulryne, Butt, Giggs; Crayff (Ford, 65), Cole (Norman, 66).
Referee: V Callow (Salford).

Boro miss absentees

BY PHIL ANDREWS

Hednesford Town 0
Middlesbrough 0

EVER SINCE the Premier League was set up to ensure that football's fat cats got a bigger share of the cream, aspirants to join the feast have been discovering how much truth there is in the old adage that what goes up must come down.

Crystal Palace, Barnsley and Bolton proved it again last season, and of the new intake preparing for the coming campaign Middlesbrough are the least in need of reminding that the gulf between the Premiership and the rest is as wide as the Tees.

Boro have been in and out of the Premiership since it was established in 1992. The last time they came up, they had a new stadium, Bryan Robson had recently taken command and they launched a serious assault on the summit with a foreign legion that included Juninho, Emerson, and Ravanelli.

Needless to say, they came straight back down, and this time Robson will be content simply to hang on in there.

Like most other Premiership clubs, Boro will again rely heavily on imported players, three of whom turned out in their first pre-season friendly against one of the Vauxhall Conference's most ambitious clubs.

The full-back Fausto De Amicis partnered one of Robson's

summer signings, Dean Gordon, who cost £900,000 from Crystal Palace. But both will face competition from the Argentinian Gustavo Lombardi, whom Robson has signed on loan until the end of the year from River Plate.

"He is only young but he is very quick and is on the fringe of the international side. He will be a real bonus to us," Robson said.

But his international strike force - the Dane Mikkel Beck and the Colombian Hamilton Ricard - will need to finish more incisively than they did against Hednesford if they are

to trouble Premiership defences, and Robson is hoping his Italian striker Marco Brancato returns to fitness before the season begins.

But Boro's best hope of Premiership survival lies closer to home, with two native Geordies who have returned to their roots to finish distinguished playing careers. Neither Paul Gascoigne nor Gary Pallister, a £2.5m signing from Manchester United, turned out at Hednesford.

"They have both been suffering from a virus and I wanted to give them a couple of extra days to recover rather than

playing them in this match," Robson said.

"They came through a really hard training session on Saturday morning and both of them will play against Stockport tonight."

"Gascoigne is training hard and running well. He was disappointed to be left out of the England World Cup squad but he has been on holiday with his family and now he is keen to play football again."

One player who did make it onto the World Cup stage - Paul Merson - resumes training this week and another old hand, Andy Townsend, showed that although he may not be as slim as he once was, he can still find space in midfield from which to orchestrate the flow of a game. But he was one of a minority of those on view who are likely to be in the starting line-up against Leeds United when the season gets underway in earnest.

A goalless draw with a non-League club may not seem like the most auspicious of starts, but only when the absentees are on parade will we be able to judge whether Boro are likely to survive in the Premiership or once again go round the revolving doors and back into the First Division.

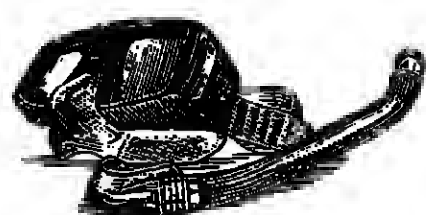
Hednesford Town (4-4-2): Cooksey; Cury, Blades, Brindley, Collins; Bradley, Ware, Kelly, Francis, Hayward, Fitzpatrick. Substitutes not used: Stanbrook (61), Jackson, Collins, Cornyn, Denison, Anderson, Reace.
Middlesbrough (4-4-2): Beresford; De Amicis, Vickers, Saker, Gordon; Stamp, Mustoe, Townsend, Moore; Beck, Ricard (Naylor, 80). Substitutes not used: Beswick, O'Loughlin.
Referee: M Cooper (Walsall).



Middlesbrough's Phil Stamp (right) is held at bay by a defiant Chris Brindley, of Hednesford Town

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Cas S
RUGBY LEAG
ONE HUNDRED

TODAY'S
NUMBER

8

The number of past-
England bowlers to
have taken 10 wickets
in a match against
South Africa. **Andy
Fraser became the
latest yesterday, with
five wickets in eight
innings at Trent Bridge.**

Zulle leads Festina confessions

CYCLING

BY ROBIN NICHOLL
with the Tour de France

ALEX ZULLE, one of the disgraced Tour de France riders, claimed yesterday that pressure from sponsors led him to use the banned blood-enhancing drug, erythropoietin (EPO).

In an interview on Swiss television, Zulle, twice winner of the Tour de France, said: "I have had good results without doping. It was a personal decision to take it but there was pressure from my sponsors."

"Still I have made a mistake. I have a lot of regrets for my fans who I have disappointed. I regret lying but there was nothing else I could do in the situation."

Armin Meier, his compatriot and Festina team-mate, was quoted in a Swiss Sunday newspaper that he would not be surprised if the fall of Festina in the drugs scandal "started an avalanche."

"Maybe the Union Cycliste Internationale should suspend more than 100 riders after the Tour. I do not believe in a general amnesty," he said.

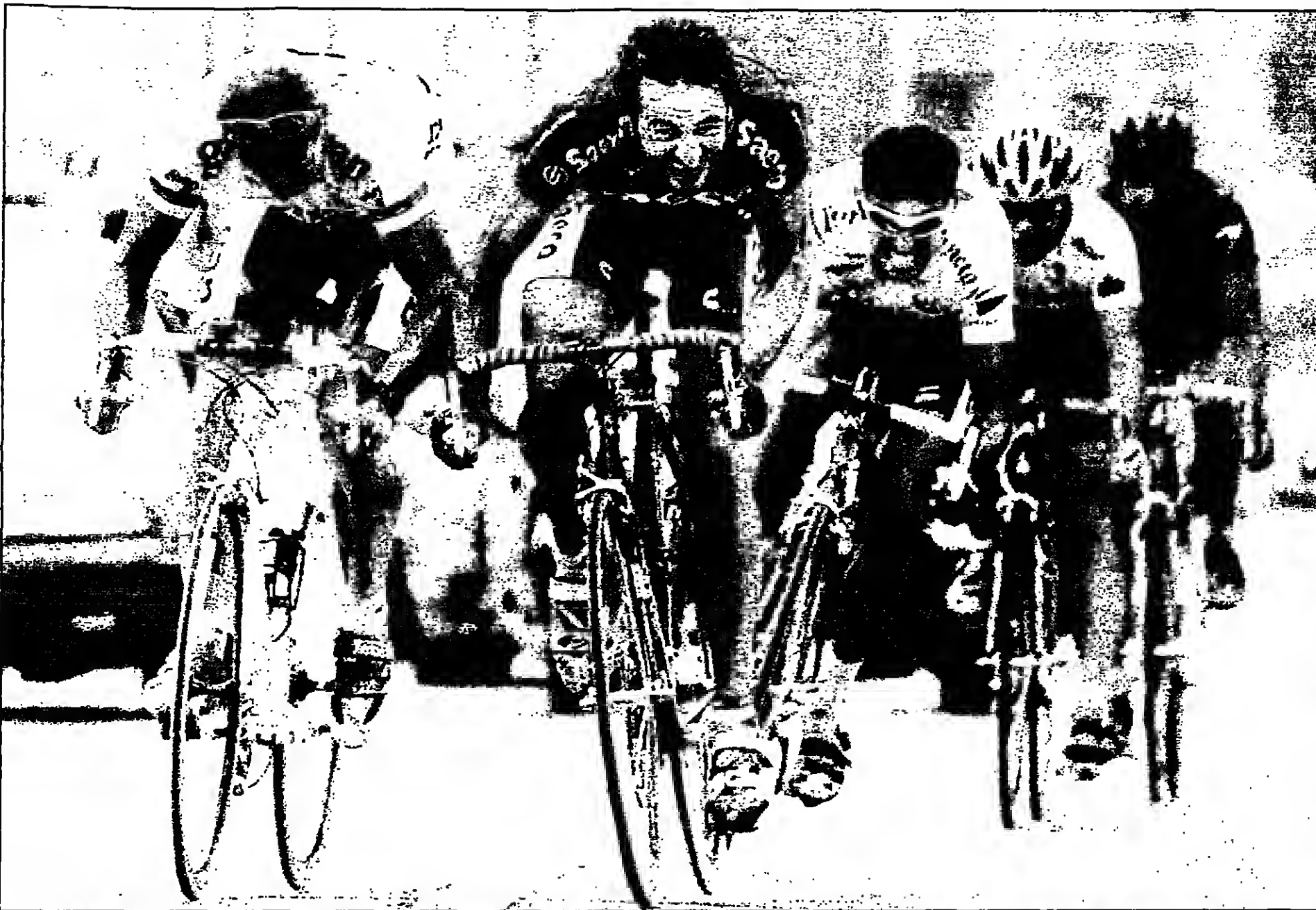
Laurent Dufaux, another Swiss member of the Festina team, was bracing himself for a long suspension. He told the Zurich-based Sport Information Bureau news agency: "When I had a virus, my haematocrit level fell to 40 per cent so I was allowed to make mine up to the 50 per cent allowed by taking EPO. It was always under medical control, and I never abused the product."

"I simply hope that the five of us who confessed will not be made scapegoats. Our case should be food for thought for the sport's powers. It would be a shame to put the lid back on because there is still a custom going on in the main field. I do not want to accuse anyone."

Dufaux told how he first denied using EPO, but when he was in a police cell he thought things over. "It was useless to fight. The evidence was enormous."

Today a second Tour team faces an anxious wait. Cees Priem, the team manager of TVM, a Dutch squad, and their doctor, Alexander Mikhailov, will be questioned by an examining magistrate in Rheims.

Hanging over the team is the threat of expulsion from the Tour, the fate that befell the nine Festina riders when their man-



The Australian Sean O'Grady (left) battles to beat Giuseppe Calcaterra in a sprint finish yesterday. The Italian was later demoted to sixth place for 'irregular riding' Reuters

ager, Bruno Roussel, admitted the team were using banned products. Customs reopened inquiries into the discovery of 104 vials in a TVM vehicle in March, and Priem and Mikhailov were held for questioning after a Customs raid on their hotel in the Pyrenees.

The controversy involving Giuseppe Calcaterra yesterday seemed small beer by comparison; it was only a racing misdemeanour. The Italian started a move that took six riders clear to a lead that came close to 13 minutes at one point on the 14th stage, which brought the Tour

to Grenoble and the threshold of the Alps. They headed the race for all but 42 of the 186.5km (115.8 miles) from Valréas.

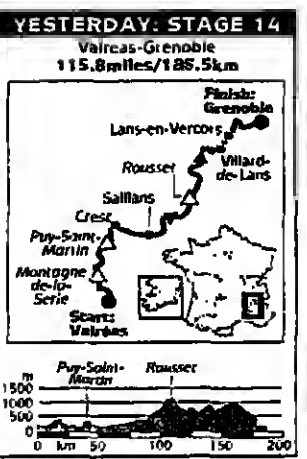
When it came to a sprint finish Calcaterra looked too strong for the rest but the final push by the Australian Stuart O'Grady gave him a stage victory to add to his three days as Tour leader in the first week. But O'Grady need hardly have bothered. Calcaterra was later relegated from second to sixth for "irregular sprinting".

Grenoble is the birthplace of the yellow jersey. It was there, in the 1919 Tour, that its

founder, Henri Desgrange, awarded the first yellow jersey to Eugene Christophe. He lost it two days from the finish when his front forks snapped.

TOUR DE FRANCE: Thirteenth stage (121.7 miles, France to Carpentras); 1 D Nardello (Fr) Mape 4hr 32min 45sec, 2 V Gerstlacher (Fr) Boreas 3 A left (Fr) Mape; 3 A 5 Huellet (Fr) FDI 5 M Jemison (US) US Postal; 4 R Martignat (Fr) Rabobank; all same time, 7.3 hours (Fr) TVM +2:27, 8 F Roscotti (Fr) Asca +2:43; 9 F Simon (Fr) GAN; 10 M des Essars (Fr) Rabobank; all same time, 11 E Zabel (Fr) Telekom +2:51; 12 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis +3:01; 13 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis +3:01; 14 A Janssens (Fr) Telekom +3:51; 15 M Pantani (Fr) Mercatone Uno +4:01; 16 A Janssens (Fr) Telekom +4:01; 17 G Verheyen (Fr) Lotto +4:01; 18 M Pantani (Fr) Mercatone Uno +4:01; 19 G Verheyen (Fr) Lotto +4:01; 20 D Nardello (Fr) Mape +4:01; 21 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis +4:01; 22 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis +4:01; 23 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis +4:01; 24 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis +4:01; 25 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis +4:01; 26 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis +4:01; 27 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis +4:01; 28 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis +4:01; 29 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis +4:01; 30 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis +4:01.

Nelson (Fr) US Postal; 5 L Deshayes (Fr) Cofidis; 6 G Calcaterra (Fr) Sacco, all same time, 7 F Gaudin (Fr) FDI +8:27; 8 R Diaz Jinto (Sp) ONCE +1:05; 9 E Zabel (Fr) Telekom +10:05; 10 J Sverdrup (Fr) Mape; 11 R McEvoy (Fr) Rabobank; 12 M Skutumpah (Fr) GAN; 13 G Hincapie (Fr) US Postal; 14 A Janssens (Fr) Asca; 15 L Gaudin (Fr) FDI; 16 S Janssens (Fr) Telekom; 17 A Janssens (Fr) Telekom; 18 R Alday (Fr) Telekom; 19 F Simon (Fr) GAN; 20 D Nardello (Fr) Mape; 21 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis; 22 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis; 23 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis; 24 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis; 25 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis; 26 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis; 27 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis; 28 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis; 29 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis; 30 S Barthe (Fr) Cofidis.



Olympic chief calls for drugs rethink

JUAN ANTONIO Samaranch, the chairman of the International Olympic Committee, has said that the list of banned doping products must be slashed and substances that do not damage an athlete's health should not be prohibited.

For Samaranch, the recent scandal involving the Festina team in the Tour de France is "a tough blow for cycling and for all sports," he told El Mundo newspaper in an interview published yesterday.

He denied that the IOC has considered legalising doping but argued that "the actual list of [banned] products must be reduced drastically."

"Doping [now] is everything that, firstly, is harmful to an athlete's health and, secondly, artificially augments his performance," Samaranch said.

"It's just the second case, for me that's not doping. If it's the first case, it is," he added.

Samaranch claimed that although Tour de France episode was particularly embarrassing, the overall situation in sport was fairly healthy.

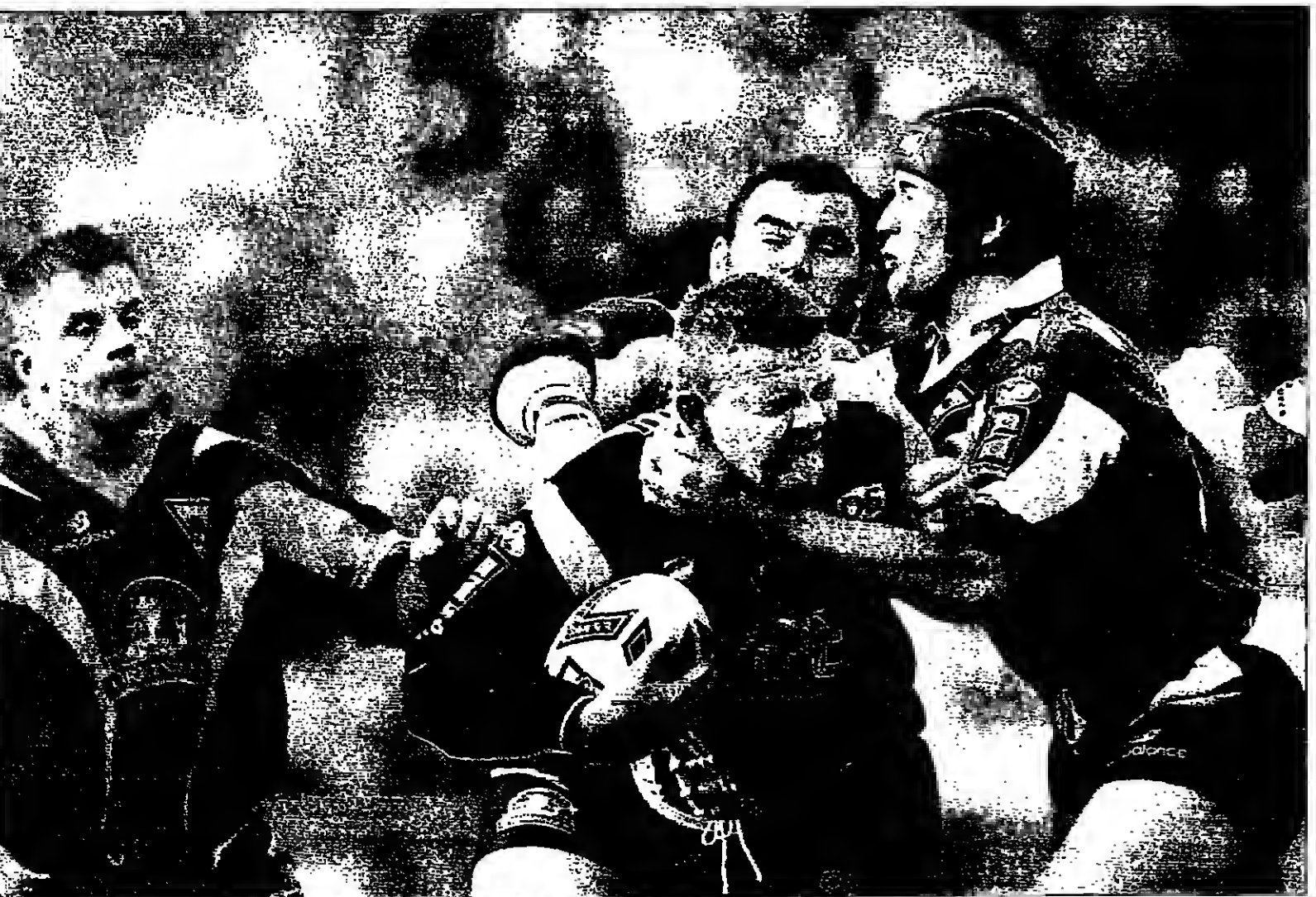
"For example, in the World Cup there were more than 60 games and nearly 300 doping controls carried out, but not one player tested positive," he told the paper.

The Festina cycling team, long ranked as one of the world's best, was kicked out of the Tour de France after the team's director admitted the team had supplied banned substances with medical supervision to improve performances.

Last week saw the scandal widening when it was reported that customs officials found the banned drug EPO in a car of officials from the Dutch team TVM in March.

Samaranch denied that the IOC was in a position to impose a change and said it needed the co-operation of all. A major turning point for the Olympics, he said, was in the Seoul Games in 1988 with the banning of the 100-metre sprinter Ben Johnson.

"Some said it was a bad day for sport. We said the opposite," Samaranch said. "And since then we have seen that we are not alone in the struggle. We have been joined by federations and sports groups of all sorts and, as the Tour showed, even by governments."



Castleford's Dean Sampson finds trying to get through Warrington's defence a painful business at Cardiff on Saturday Varley

Cas stirred into action by Sampson

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

Warrington 16
Castleford 23

CASTLEFORD TRAVELLED far from home to end their six-match losing streak against Warrington, thanks largely to an English version of *hug* stirred by Dean Sampson.

The club's longest-serving player scored a magnificent try that lit up a dire first half in Cardiff on Saturday night and

then roused his team-mates at half-time with the fighting talk that saw them emerge as winners in the second.

Sampson took his colleagues aside one by one during the break and told them in no uncertain terms that they were going to end their depressing run of defeats.

It was an overdue display of passion which, according to the Castleford coach, Stuart Raper, made a crucial difference to the side.

An Arms Park populated predominantly by locals saw a

much-improved contest in the second 40 minutes with the lead changing hands four times before the match was decided in dramatic fashion.

With the score 16-16, Lee Briers, who had bravely come back in to the fray after dislocating his shoulder, hit the upright with a drop-goal attempt. The Warrington substitute, Gary Chambers, went over from the rebound for a try that was eventually disallowed for an earlier knock-on.

With three minutes remaining, Brad Davis hit the target

for Castleford with his drop kick and, although that would probably have been enough to win it, Mike Ford made sure with an injury-time try.

Cardiff, with high hopes of a Super League franchise of their own next year, had staged a contest that had slowly developed into a compelling one.

"We are very encouraged by today," said Patrick Gore, the finance director of Cardiff Rugby Union Club, who are backing the application.

"We eventually saw what the game can be like. Up to

3,000 local people who came along thoroughly enjoyed it and we hope to be putting on a Super League match every fortnight next year."

Warrington have cause to feel that they had made a long journey only to throw two points away and also finish with a series of injury worries, Lee Penny and Kobs-Love joining Briers among the casualties.

Warrington: Penny, Kobs, Kobs-Love, Raper, Doyle, Briers, Hilton, Forster, Nutley, McCune, Tuttle, Wainwright, Substitutes used: Fawcett, Chambers, Knott, Casey, Castleford: Gary, Elliott, Critchley, Mather, Chapman, McKelvey, Davis, Sampson, Orr, Sylvan, P. Smith, Hartland, Wood, Substitutes used: M. Smith, McNeil, Ford, Schick, Referee: S. Gannon (St Helens).

McAvoy joins Bulls

BRADFORD BULLS are poised to bolster the defence of their Super League title with the signing of Salford's centre Nathan McAvoy.

The Bulls are believed to have agreed a fee of around £140,000 for the 21-year-old who played in the recent England international.

Bradford, due to make an announcement today, are also hoping to secure the services of Huddersfield's Great Britain prop forward Neil Harmon, who is out of contract at the end of the season.

Full KR retained top place in the First Division last night,

their 36-24 win over Swinton keeping them ahead of Wakefield on points difference after Wakefield beat Hunslet 20-12.

Rovers' Mike Fletcher five goals proved decisive as both sides scored three tries, with loose-forward Sean Casey scoring a hat-trick for Swinton.

Stanley Gene grabbed his 28th try of the season for Rovers, while Richard Smith and Jamie Kennedy also crossed.

Swinton's other points came from Steve Gartland, who scored a try and kicked four goals.

Wakefield's victory came despite being reduced to 12 men

after only 10 minutes, when Carl Briggs was shown the red card for a trip.

Hunslet were already ahead through Chris Ross' second-minute penalty, but Josh Bostock finished off a slick passing move on the half-hour.

Adam Hughes made it 12-2 at the break and the Hawks had Richard Goddard sent off in the second half for a high tackle.

Ross gave the home side a glimmer of hope with a 65th minute try, but Matt Fuller soon cancelled that out and Gareth Casey kicked his fourth goal. A try by Johan Windley was too late for the Hawks.

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Hakkinen punishes Schumacher

MOTOR RACING

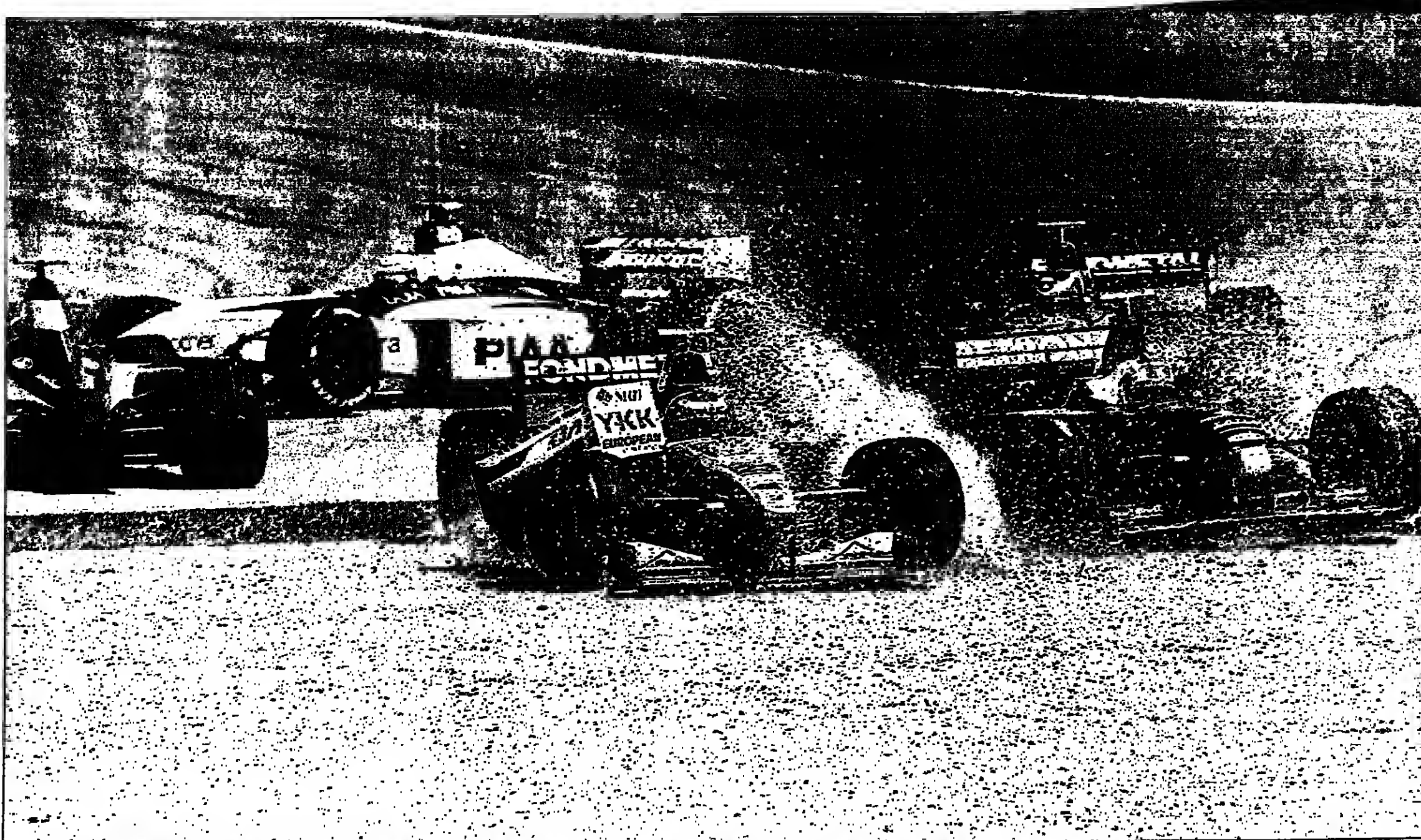
BY DERICK ALLSOP
at Zellweg

THIS TIME it was *Der Meister* who cracked, and he was made to pay a heavy price. Mika Hakkinen was released to enjoy a serene Austrian Grand Prix win yesterday and with it a firmer hold on the Formula One World Championship.

Michael Schumacher recovered from his uncharacteristic error to reach the podium in his Ferrari, but for all his heroics in doing so, and the inevitable co-operation of his team-mate, Eddie Irvine, he was unable to prevent a McLaren-Mercedes clean sweep.

David Coulthard emerged from the mayhem of the start and relegation to the back of the field to produce what he described as the best race of his Formula One career and finished an emphatic second.

However the Scotsman had to concede his already faint prospects of winning the title had been virtually obliterated by his partner's fifth success of the season. He now trails the



Tyrrell's Ricardo Rosset collides with his own team-mate Toro Takagi and sends Johnny Herbert (right) and Esteban Tuero sliding into the gravel in the Austrian Grand Prix yesterday. Empics

Damon Hill has turned down the chance of returning to Williams, the team which sacked him two years ago after winning the world championship, as replacement for the reigning champion, Jacques Villeneuve, who is joining the new British-American Racing team.

Finn by 30 points and Schumacher by 22 with a maximum 60 points available.

Eddie Irvine slowed in the closing laps, ostensibly with brake problems but few observers were surprised to see Schumacher go past him and take third place.

Ralf Schumacher who presented his big brother with more severe resistance, put Jordan in the points for the second consecutive race, and Jacques Villeneuve was sixth in a Williams.

Hakkinen had the red Ferrari of Schumacher in his mirrors for 17 absorbing laps, and twice had to match the German's feared aggression, succeeding despite a heavier fuel load. Then Schumacher went too wide, hounded over the gravel, lost his front wing and other accessories, and with it any chance of a fourth successive victory. As he ushered his damaged car back to base for repairs, Hakkinen knew his course was clear.

Hakkinen said: "It was an excellent victory for the whole

team. We had the right tactics and I think if you looked at our faces at the end you could see what it meant. You can't ask for more than first and second. It's what I wanted and expected. We are extremely confident."

"Michael gave me pressure and you expect that when you lead. I had a little problem with my brakes and that gave me some concern. When he went off it was a big relief. But then David got me worried. I thought his drive was unbelievable."

Outstanding it undeniably was, yet in truth Coulthard never seriously threatened his team-mate and was content enough with the six points in light of recent events. He had taken only one point from the previous four races, qualified here a distant 14th, and was a victim of the first-lap chaos.

While Hakkinen catapulted

past Giancarlo Fisichella's Benetton and Jean Alesi's Sauber to lead at the first corner, soon to be pursued by Schumacher, the third driver in the title standings was experiencing another world at the lower end of the grid.

Coulthard said: "I just wanted to stay out of trouble but had to back off. Somebody stalled on the grid and then I lost my front wing and had to come back to the pits. I told the team it wasn't the red mist. It was the story of my season so far."

"Fortunately, the safety car came out and although I was at the back it is relatively easy to make progress when your car is better than the others."

"I must also complement the other drivers for being 100 per cent fair. There have been one or two incidents recently and at a drivers' meeting here we agreed there would be no

dangerous weaving. It is the rule that no one should change direction more than once when challenged and we wanted this clarified before anybody got hurt."

Coulthard actually led the race for a couple of laps following Hakkinen's pit stop and even at that stage he accepted second place would be his maximum reward. He acknowledged also that was his realistic target in the championship.

"I thought in the circumstances I would be doing well to get a couple of points," he said. "That's the best race of my Formula One career. But it looks as though the championship is going to be a bit of a struggle."

Schumacher still has designs on first place but his failed self-confidence was misplaced yesterday. "It was a stupid mistake," he said.

AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX

1 M Hakkinen (Fin) 1:10.10pts
McLaren-Mercedes 1st 30min
44.08sec (100.200 202.777mph)
2 D Coulthard (GB)
McLaren-Mercedes 52.95sec
3 M Schumacher (Ger)
Ferrari 53.02sec
4 E Irvine (GB)
Jordan 53.07sec
5 R Schumacher (Ger)
Jordan-Mugen-Honda 53.55sec
6 J Villeneuve (Can)
Williams-Mecachrome 53.55sec
7 J Alesi (Fr)
Benetton 53.55sec
8 J Fisichella (It)
Benetton 53.55sec
9 M Salo (Fin)
Tyrrell 53.55sec
10 J Herbert (GB)
Tyrrell 53.55sec
11 J Montoya (Col)
Williams-Mecachrome 53.55sec
12 J Barrichello (Br)
Ferrari 53.55sec
13 J Trulli (It)
Jordan-Mugen-Honda 53.55sec
14 J Agazzi (It)
Tyrrell 53.55sec
15 J Magnussen (Den)
Mugen-Honda 53.55sec

CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP

1 McLaren-Mercedes 102pts 2 Ferrari 50
3 Benetton-Playlife 32 4 Williams-Mecachrome 20
5 Stewart-Haas 5 6 Sauber-Petronas 4
7 Jordan-Mugen-Honda 3

Drivers' championship		Australian GP	Brazilian GP	Argentinean GP	San Marino GP	Spanish GP	Mexican GP	Canadian GP	French GP	British GP	Austrian GP	German GP	Hungarian GP	Belgian GP	Turkish GP	Luxembourg GP	Japanese GP	Pts
1	M Hakkinen (Fin)	10	10	6	1	10	10	10	4	6	10							66
2	M Schumacher (Ger)	-	4	10	6	4	-	10	10	10	4							58
3	D Coulthard (GB)	6	6	1	10	6	-	-	1	-	6							36
4	E Irvine (GB)	3	-	4	4	-	4	4	6	4	3		2 AUGUST					32
5	A Wurz (Aut)	-	3	3	-	3	-	3	2	3	-		14 AUGUST					17
6	G Fisichella (It)	-	1	-	-	-	6	6	-	3	-		30 AUGUST					15
7	J Villeneuve (Can)	2	-	-	3	1	2	-	3	-	1							12
8	H-H Frenetzo (Ger)	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-							8
9	R Barrichello (Br)	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-							4
10	J Alesi (Fr)	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-							3
	M Salo (Fin)	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-							3
	R Schumacher (Ger)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2							3
12	J Herbert (GB)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							1
	P Diniz (Br)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-							1
	J Magnussen (Den)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-							1

Rydell holds off chasing pack Auriol on song in the rain

BY NICK PHILLIPS
at Snetterton

ANTHONY REID and James Thompson both won tense races in the British Touring Car Championships at Snetterton yesterday, but it was the championship leader, Richard Rydell, who was the most pleased, having narrowly increased his lead over the pack.

Rydell's second place in the longer feature race made all the difference for him as his closest pre-weekend rivals, Alain Menu and Reid, failed to score. The

race was woo and lost on the first corner, known as Riches. Thompson pulled off one of the moves of the season to take his Honda up from third on the grid to lead, by driving right round the outside of Reid and Menu on the front row.

"I made a really good start and thought: 'Where can I go?' The only place was around the outside, which was really oily and dusty," Thompson revealed.

Rydell, in the Volvo, had almost made it a four-point coming into Riches, but backed off and was rewarded with second

place as Reid's Nissan and Menu's Renault clashed.

Both got going again, but further round the first lap Menu collected the spinning Vauxhall of John Cleland and both crashed heavily. The safety car was then deployed as the severely winded Cleland was treated at the trackside. The veteran Scot's injuries were limited to badly bruised ribs, but it rounded off a bad weekend for his title hopes.

Reid's Nissan required a lengthy pit-stop due to the damage.

Reid had earlier won the Sprint race, under intense but

ultimately unproductive pressure from the two Renault Lagunas of Jason Plato and Menu.

"The cars are too evenly matched; it's impossible to pass unless the guy in front makes a mistake," Menu complained. Plato's second place, added to third in the feature race, made him the day's top scorer. He, Thompson, Reid and Menu are all still locked together in the battle for second place in the championship, and are close enough behind Rydell to move up alongside the Swede, should he suffer a bad race weekend.

DIDIER AURIOL, of France, opened up a 30-second lead in the New Zealand Rally yesterday to put himself within sight of his second victory of the year.

Auriol, who had led his Toyota team-mate Carlos Sainz by just 2.2sec overnight, clocked the fastest time on five of the eight stages making up the second leg of the race. It gave him a 30.4sec advantage over the Spaniard on a day marred by the weather.

A torrential downpour caused two stages to be can-

celled because of flooding and forced organisers to give the crews an extra 45 minutes to negotiate their return to the Manukau base camp.

"Normally being the first car on the roads here can be a disadvantage because you clear the road for others," said Auriol, who won the Spanish Rally in April and was denied victory in the last round in Greece by an engine problem on the penultimate stage.

"But because it has been so wet today that hasn't been a problem."

The Mitsubishi driver Richard Burns moved into third place ahead of Colin McRae after the Subaru driver spun on the 12th stage at Ararua. McRae, who won the New Zealand rally three years running between 1993 and 1995, was further hampered on the penultimate stage when he slid wide and damaged his steering.

"In general the stages were not too bad - certainly not as bad as everyone thought they might be," McRae said. "Tomorrow's stages will be interesting, especially the long one

and it is sure to see an about-turn for a lot of people."

The Subaru driver trails Burns by just under 10 seconds, but is comfortable in fourth before the tight battle for fifth place between Finnish drivers Juha Kankkunen and the reigning world champion, Tommi Makinen, who are separated by 1.3sec.

The rally resumes today with two runs on a punishing 47.43-kilometre stage at Te Koraha and another five stages for a total final leg distance of 182.36 km before the finish in Manukau.

ASF offers to help Fibbens

SWIMMING
BY STEVEN BAKER

MIKE FIBBENS, the British Olympic bronze medalist who on Saturday received a 12-month ban for taking drugs, will receive help rather than condemnation from the British authorities.

The punishment, imposed by swimming's world governing body, Fina, was welcomed by the chief executive of Britain's Amateur Swimming Federation, David Sparkes, as "harsh but appropriate".

But Sparkes revealed that the ASF would try to help the Camden Swiss Cottage Club swimmer, who competed in three Olympics and won the bronze medal in the 50m freestyle in the 1991 European Championships in Athens.

"Once he's served his time, he'll be welcomed back into the sport and we'll obviously be offering to help Mike through this problem," Sparkes said.

Fibbens, a former British 50m and 100m freestyle record holder, will be suspended until 14 March 1999, a year after the offence, after he tested positive for the banned stimulant benzoyllecgonine, a cocaine-like substance and performance-enhancing drug. He failed the test at a World Cup meeting in Sheffield, but has always insisted he used the stimulant as a social drug.

The ban came a day after four Chinese women were suspended for two years and while Fina are still debating the Michelle de Bruin case.

Sparkes backed Fina's strict stance against the 30-year-old Fibbens. "I think we'll see that a 12-month ban is a very harsh sentence, but it reflects the severity with which swimming treats these issues."

"We consider this to be an appropriate punishment for being tested positive for this substance and welcome the



Fibbens: 'Social drug' claim

decision of the Fina doping commission.

"One would hope that this will also serve as a clear warning to other athletes. In no way could we condone what Mike has done, despite the fact that he's an excellent swimmer with a bright future."

On Friday Michelle de Bruin, the Irish triple Olympic champion, appeared before a five-hour Fina hearing in Lausanne, Switzerland, accused of manipulating a sample. The committee have yet to announce their findings.

Springboks trample on England's hopes

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

South Africa 3
England 2

ENGLAND SUFFERED their second successive defeat yesterday in Pretoria when they were beaten 2-3 in the fifth and final Test to lose the series 2-1. The result was greeted with great joy by the South Africans who failed to qualify for the recent World Cup in which England finished sixth and it will boost their hopes for September's Commonwealth Games.

England's coach, Barry Dancer, said afterwards: "We can't expect to win when we allow soft goals in deep defence as regularly as we have done in the last few matches."

In sunny weather yesterday, South Africa were quickly into their stride with Chelmsford's Mike Cullen opening the scoring in the fifth minute. Howard Hoskin registered his first goal for England in the 19th minute but South Africa re-

gained the lead in the 25th minute through Murray Anderson.

England increased the pressure after the interval only to be thwarted by Myburg at three successive penalty corners. There was further disappointment as Garcia put the ball wide at a penalty stroke. The equaliser came in the 61st minute through Jimmy Wallis finishing a powerful drive through the Springboks' defence with a fierce shot.

A minute later South Africa were in the lead again. From their only penalty corner of the half Justin King brought a fine save from Luckes only for the rebound to be put into the net by Craig Fulton for a disappointing end to the tour.

England's last few matches were in the lead again. From their only penalty corner of the half Justin King brought a fine save from Luckes only for the rebound to be put into the net by Craig Fulton for a disappointing end to the tour.

Kuerten rallies to end victory drought

TENNIS

GUSTAVO KUERTEN broke a victory drought stretching back to last year's French Open when he beat Karol Kucera 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 to win the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart yesterday.

The popular Brazilian finally added a second crown to the one that covered him in Grand Slam glory 14 months ago in Paris. The 21-year-old won \$100,000 plus a Mercedes convertible.

Kucera, Slovakia's world No 16, who denied the Chilean Marcelo Rios the world No 1 ranking with a semi-final upset, charged ahead at the start winning the first four games and the set. But as temperatures on court soared towards 40 degrees, Kuerten responded. The Brazilian started his comeback with a break for 4-2 in the second set as Kucera's returning accuracy began to suffer.

Kuerten lost serve in the fifth game of the third set, but broke

back on a Kucera error to stay alive at 4-4. The 13th seed reached two match points in the 10th game and needed only one, hitting a backhand winner. Kuerten had emerged from nowhere to capture last year's French Open, becoming the first Brazilian to win a Grand Slam. He has admitted he had trouble living up to expectations after that triumph. Since then his best performances were reaching two finals in 1997.

"It's not like I completely disappeared this year," said Kuerten, ranked 28th. "I've reached a few semi-finals. I've just had to be patient until my game got better again."

Switzerland clinched a place in their first ever Fed Cup final when the world No 1 Martina Hingis beat her French opponent Amelie Mauresmo yesterday.

Hingis fought back to win 6-7, 6-4, 6-2 and give the Swiss an unbeatable 3-0 lead over the holders, France, in their best

of five World Group semi-final. In the final Switzerland will face either Spain or the United States in September in Basel.

Playing her first competitive tennis since a semi-final defeat to Jana Novotna at Wimbledon, Hingis had shown few signs of her lack of match practice in her straight-sets demolition of Julie Halard-Decugis in Saturday's opener. But the 17-year-old laboured against Mauresmo, needing two hours and 19 minutes to nail down the win.

Mauresmo started strongly, winning the first set on a tie-break and taking a 4-1 lead in the second. But Hingis, displaying the steely determination that has made her No 1 in the world, responded by winning the next seven games to take the set and a 2-0 lead in the third.

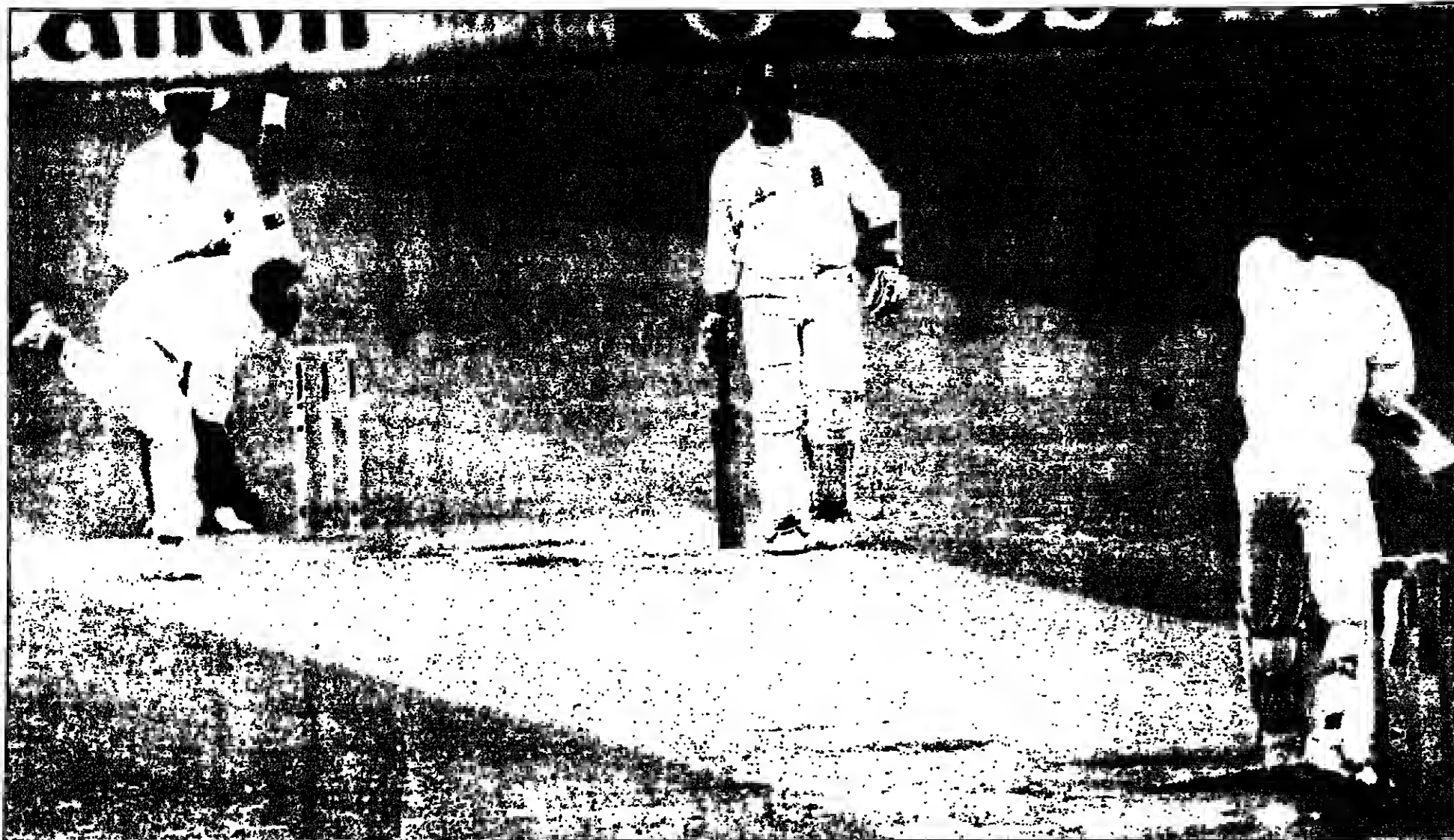
A defeated Mauresmo was unable to recover, as Hingis, gaining confidence with each shot, allowed the Frenchwoman to hold her serve just once more.



SPORT

FALKLANDS FOOT SOLDIER P19 • SHUMACHER'S BLUNDER P26

Fourth Test: Donald the danger as Atherton and Hussain build on bowlers' success



Nasser Hussain blocks another fierce delivery from Allan Donald, on what was a generally frustrating afternoon for the South African bowler

David Ashdown

England look to heroes

BY DEREK PRINGLE
at Trent BridgeSouth Africa 374 & 208
England 336 & 108-1

IRRESPECTIVE OF the result, this Test match has been a spectacle to savour. All summer cricket has been craving a contest as enthralling as this, which has been on a knife edge since England fought their way to near parity in the first innings. Yet if that stoic effort kept them in the game, it was the bowlers who have given them the chance to level this series, an opportunity the batsmen are making strident progress towards.

According to certain gurus English cricket badly needs heroic figures. If it does there were many yesterday, though if Michael Atherton and Nasser Hussain were at the centre of the crowd's euphoria when play ended, Angus Fraser and Dominic Cork with five and four wickets respectively, deserved to be lauded too.

They cannot rest on their laurels and when play begins this morning, England will need 139 more runs to win. With nine wickets remaining and the weight of cricket followers in

this country behind them, they will start favourites, though such predictions must be tempered while Allan Donald has any breath left in his body.

The South African fast bowler cannot have given more to his team's cause and there will be more of him to be weathered today.

History is out with England. Since the war they have only won a single Test match chasing more than the 247 runs they needed here, and that was two winter's ago in Christchurch.

On that occasion it was Atherton who contributed most to getting the 304 runs needed by scoring 118. Yesterday, he was in the thick of things again, mixing fluent drives with cool intransigence, the latter only ruffled when on 27 after Donald, feeling sure he had the opener caught behind of a glove, went into overdrive.

The incident was the latest in a long line of contentious decisions. Given that few batsmen walk these days, South Africa can have few complaints about Atherton standing his ground.

Television replays showed that the ball had probably come off the glove. What Atherton appeared to be contesting was the

legitimacy of Mark Boucher's diving catch, which in real time looked as marginal as Hussain's diving effort at cover had earlier in the day. That saw Hansie Cronje survive after the umpire had called for a replay.

If the England dressing-room breathed a sigh of relief, it caused Donald to breathe fire. Continuing round the wicket he peppered Atherton with a series of increasingly quicker short balls, the last, according to the speedster machine, thudding into Atherton's chest at 90mph.

Unsurprisingly words were exchanged, though neither looked to be quoting from Kipling's 'If' something Donald's captain does on a regular basis.

Top-class batting

ANGUS FRASER and Dominic Cork believe they have bowled their team into a position to win the fourth Test.

Cork paid tribute to Fraser's efforts: "Angus was tremendous, the way he keeps going and every ball on the spot. Hopefully we can go on tomorrow, but we've got to play well."

The Derbyshire captain was especially pleased to see Eng-

land press home their advantage with the bat too. "I just think it was top-class batting," he said. "We're in a good position, but tomorrow is a different day."

Fraser also has high expectations for the final day, saying: "The blokes played magnificently today and if we play as well as we can tomorrow, we should get there."

been every bit as brave. This was Fraser's second five-wicket haul in the match and only the second time he has taken 10 or more wickets in the match. The previous occasion was the first of the Trinidad Tests last winter, a match England went on to lose.

In a match that has seen England's bowling performances fluctuate wildly, Fraser has been a source of consistency throughout. Yesterday he was a towering, steadfast presence, his arms and legs powering like pistons up the slight incline that leads to the crease from the Pavilion End. In the morning, a 90-minute spell that brought him the lone wicket of Daryll Cullinan, contributed much to Cork's wickets at the other end.

After lunch he was back again, plying his nagging ways, luring batsmen to their deaths by a million dot balls. A phlegmatic and honest man by nature, Fraser was almost replaced in this Test by Alan Mullally. The selectors apparently left it up to the captain to choose between them. Prudently, Alec Stewart decided to stick with old faithful.

The old-fashioned virtues of

line and length applied by Fraser, appear to elude the others and England needed another poor umpiring decision to help their cause. This time the unfortunate batsman was Jonty Rhodes, who according to umpire Merv Kitchen, got some bat on a ball that Stewart took down the leg side off Cork. TV replays were somewhat less categorical.

After his fairly dismal performance in the first innings, Cork bustled and bristled with intent. More importantly, he got the ball to swing away from the right-handers, movement that contributed to Pollock's downfall after the batsman wafted wildly outside his off-stump.

Later, in a reversal of roles, it was Cork who supported Fraser as the Middlesex seamer cleaned up the last three South African wickets, including that of Boucher, whose plucky cameo of 35 went with the world record he set during England's first innings on Saturday.

The milestone, which saw him reach 50 dismissals in only his 10th Test, came when he caught Darren Gough off Donald. If England win, though, and Hussain top-scores, the dropped catch may stay with him longer.

Henry Blofeld, page 23

Distance runners 'use EPO'

DRUGS IN SPORT
BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

BRITAIN'S LEADING distance runner, Jon Brown, believes that use of erythropoietin (EPO), the performance-enhancing drug which has left this year's Tour de France in disarray, has become rife in his events.

Brown, the European cross-country champion two years ago and one of the few British distance men with a chance of a medal in this summer's European Championships, now hopes to win the 10,000 metres title in Budapest "to prove people can run well not using EPO". The 27-year-old Bridgend athlete, who lives and trains in Canada, believes a number of top athletes in distances between 5,000m and the marathon are making use of the substance, which raises the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood by increasing the level of haemoglobin.

"Even two years ago I would have said it was virtually non-existent in distance running," he said after finishing second in Saturday's 5,000m at the Bupa AAA Championships and trials. "But I think now we have got some main players operating on the stuff. It's getting very widespread in distance running. I feel like I have seen a lot of weird stuff in the last 18 months."

"It is mainly the European athletes from countries with a background of cycling. The same people are supplying the cyclists and the long distance runners."

Brown, who has already run two marathons, placing seventh in last year's race at Chicago and eighth in the 1998 London Marathon, wants to make an impact on the track before the level of performance becomes out of his reach.

"There is no way anybody is going to beat these characters unless they play them at their own game," he said. "Obviously this is a road some countries think they are going down. Once you go down that road - the same as cycling - sport is

not real sport any more, and the barriers are unlimited.

"It's going to be like the Tour, with people thinking that if you don't take the stuff, you are not going to come first. There is so much money around at the moment, especially for marathons, that it becomes the main incentive."

Although the world record in the 5,000 and 10,000m has improved dramatically in recent years, Brown does not point the finger of suspicion in the direction of those who have set the new marks.

"I wouldn't suspect any East African athletes," he said. "The Kenyans are getting very organised. They used to train in a haphazard way in the past, but now they are getting very organised about it."

Another view of doping from within the sport came yesterday from Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee.

Asked by the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo* for his reaction to the Tour de France fiasco, Samaranch produced a reply which appeared to alter radically his organisation's position on the question.

"Doping now is everything that firstly is harmful to athletes' health and secondly artificially augments 'performance'." Samaranch said. "If it is just the second case, that for me is not doping."

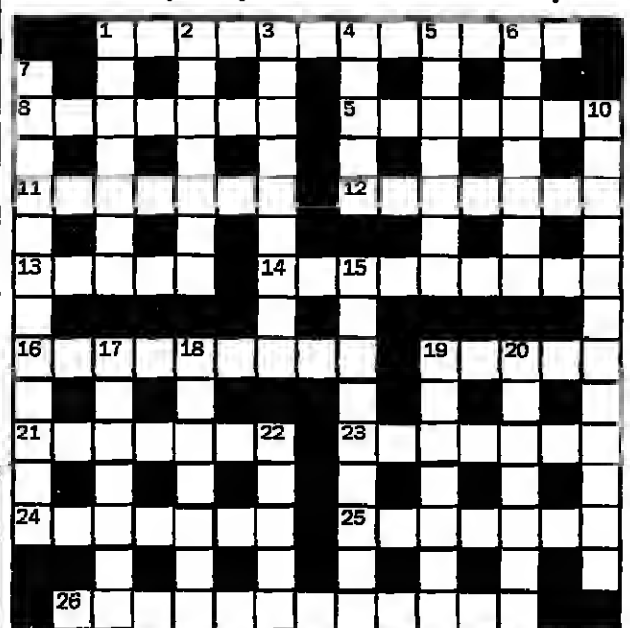
By that admittedly strange criterion, from a man who recently welcomed the president of the international cycling union to the IOC, EPO would still not be an acceptable substance. It can increase the level of red blood cells in the body to the point where the blood begins to coagulate, creating the possibility of coronary thrombosis.

EPO, which was introduced in the mid-Eighties to treat kidney disease, is produced naturally in the human body but can prove fatal if injected. It is as yet undetectable in blood or urine samples, although the cycling authorities set limits for the ratio of red cells in riders' blood, which can indicate EPO use.

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3673. Monday 27 July

By Portia

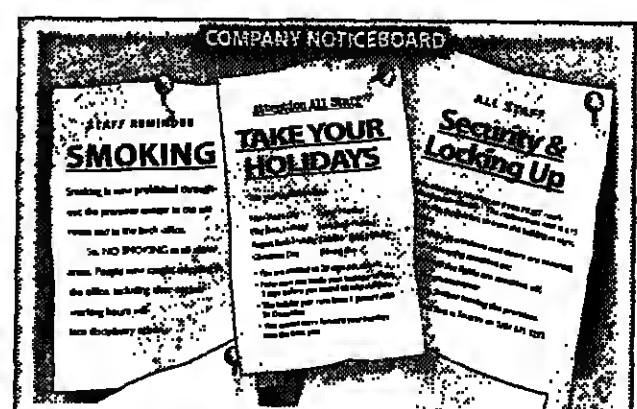


- ACROSS**
- Sort of German triplane, it's very loud (3-9)
 - Work man's to suffer over love-sick girl (7)
 - No longer aims to restrict money and pays out (7)
 - Know Scottish society accepts any foreign nationals (7)
 - Piece of equipment to hang on to (7)
 - The lecturer offers to return (5)
 - He doesn't give much of a performance (3-6)
 - Country retreat occupied by a church official (5,4)
 - Slow pace in the main? (5)
 - Single tenor follows opening church anthem (7)
 - Lake district a number initially settle in (4,3)

- DOWN**
- Acquire influence to end dispute (7)
 - Will try to relax one's hold (5,2)
 - Don't rush to receive former cardinal inside (4,4,4)
 - Improve quarters with luck when head's gone (7)
 - Dependent old priest's seized by rage (7)
 - Likely to be soft on drunken American bullies (9)
 - Object about write up that's incompetent (5)
 - Best take trouble with part of the rigging (7)
 - Clare may live here (7)
 - Theory of education (4-8)
 - Take care to avoid another motorist? (5,5,2)
 - Can settle accommodation they feel (9)
 - Drunk in tears? It's the wine (7)
 - Survey's appearance leads to European entente (4-3)
 - Order a bit of butter to put on one's bread (7)
 - Some say alternative guide is strict (7)
 - Dees rehearsal? (3-2)

TRENT BRIDGE SCOREBOARD

England won toss	J N Rhodes c Stewart b Cork	2
SOUTH AFRICA - First Innings	M A Pollock c Stewart b Cork	7
374 (W) 1 Cronje 126, 5 M Pollock 50, A R C Fraser 5-60, 0 Gough 4-119.	11 min, 10 balls, 1 four	
England - First Innings	M V Boucher c Hussain	35
202 (Friday) 202 for 4	189 min, 65 balls, 5 fours	
M R Rampershadh not out	5 Elworthy lbw b Fraser	10
177 min, 203 balls, 7 fours	117 min, 19 balls, 1 four	
O K Salisbury b Donald	A A Donald not out	7
104 min, 77 balls, 2 fours	16 min, 4 balls, 1 four	
O A Hick b Donald	P R Adams c Stewart b Fraser	1
14 min, 17 balls, 1 four	Extras (b1 b4 w1)	6
A Flintoff c Boucher b Kallis	Total (832 min, 753 overs) 208	
149 min, 37 balls, 3 fours	Fall: 1-3 (Lisenberg) 3-17 (Kallis) 3-	
O G Cork c Boucher b Pollock	21 (Kirsten) 4-119 (Cullinan) 5-122	
36 min, 29 balls, 1 four	(Rhodes) 6-136 (Pollock) 7-189	
O Gough c Boucher b Donald	(Cronje) 8-193 (Boucher) 9-200 (El-	
14 min, 12 balls	worthy) 10-208 (Adams)	
A R C Fraser lbw b Pollock	Bowling: Gough 16-4-56-1 (nb1	
130 min, 14 balls, 1 four	17-5-2-0, 1-10-0-0, 4-1-13-0, 4-	
Extras (b7 b13 w1 nb1)	1-16-0, 2-0-0-0, Fraser 28-3-4-0-2,	
34	5 (B-2-20-1, 14-4-22-1, 6-3-0-20-3),	
Total (832 min, 1275 overs) 336	Cork 20-4-60-4 (5-1-25-1, 8-1-19-	
Fall: 1-145 (Atherton) 2-150 (Butcher)	2-12-10-1, Flintoff 6-1-16-0 (4-	
3-191 (Stewart) 4-199 (Hussain)	0-12-0, 2-1-4-0), Salisbury 5-2-0-0	
5-244 (Salisbury) 6-254 (Hick) 7-285	(3-2-3-0, 2-0-0-0).	
(Cronje) 8-302 (Cork) 9-307 (Gough)		
10-336 (Fraser)		
Bowling: Donald 33-8-109-5 (3-0-		
14-0, 5-2-9-0, 8-2-38-2, 8-3-18-2, 3-		
0-7-0, 3-1-0-0, 3-0-15-1); Pollock		
35-5-12-75-2 (nb9) (4-2-10-0, 5-3-		
7-0, 4-0-14-0, 4-0-14-0, 3-2-1-0, 5-		
4-16-0, 6-5-1-13-2); Elworthy		
22-8-4 (nb2) (2-1-4-0, 5-1-15-		
0, 10-5-15-1, 1-1-0-0, 3-0-9-0);		
Kallis 28-9-60-2 (nb5 w1) (7-2-17-		
0, 8-4-12-1, 6-5-10-0, 2-0-7-0, 4-1-		
10-1, 1-0-0-0); Adams 5-2-51-0		
(8-1-31-0, 1-1-0-0).		
Progress: Third day: New ball		
taken after 81.3 overs at 218-4, 250-		
373 min, 92.2 overs, Lancs: 259-6		
(Rampershadh 28, Flintoff 0) 101		
overs 300; 404 min, 116.5 overs, In-		
nings closed: 3:37pm, tea.		
Butcher's 50; 149 min, 103 balls,		
9 fours Atherton's 50; 150 min, 136		
balls, 6 fours; Rampershadh's 50; 252		
min, 181 balls, 5 fours.		
SOUTH AFRICA - Second Innings		
208 (Saturday) 92 for 3		
G Flintoff lbw b Fraser		
53 min, 31 balls		
O F J Liebenberg lbw b Gough		
0		
13 min, 6 balls		
J H Kallis c Stewart b Cork		
143 min, 33 balls, 2 fours		
O J Cullinan c Rampershadh		
56		
(143 min, 105 balls, 8 fours)		
"WJ Cronje c Stewart b Cork		
67		
(251 min, 168 balls, 8 fours)		



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MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Tracey Emin, the art world's bit of rough

So to The Tracey Emin Museum, wedged between a greasy spoon and a unisex hair saloon in London's Waterloo Road. I'm a bit early, so find the place all bleak and shuttered up. There's a chip sticking out the key-hole, though. Truly, there is. It's a big, fat, tasty-looking chip, too. I am peckish and minded to eat it but am worried. What if it's not just a chip? What if it's "A Chip Sticking Out of a Keyhole On The Waterloo Road - Tracey Emin, '98" and worth, say, £40,000 to Charles Saatchi? This makes it all the more tempting. I must say. But before I can do anything too naughty and malicious and destructive, along comes Tracey. "Wotcha," she says. "Wotcha," I reply. She takes the chip and chucks it. So, oo, not art after all. Although sometimes - and I accept this is possibly my limitation - I do find it quite hard to tell.

Into her museum which, yes, was once a museum, open to the public at certain times, but is now just a studio. She got fed up, she says, of coaches filled with Norwegian students drawing up outside. "You know, they'd picked the Hayward Gallery then The Tracey Emin Museum in their Time Out..." Oh God, did they all troop in wearing ski-pants and machine-knitted sweaters with fir trees on them? "Let's just say they were very Norwegian," she replies. She kicks off her sandals and replaces them with a pair of self-made felt slippers with "Tracey" appliqued on one and "Emin" appliqued on the other. She is, of course, superbly self-referential, if not wholly self-referential. Her mesh shopping bag also has "Emin" appliqued on it. There are beer cans in it. "Stella?" she asks. Don't mind if I do, I say. She disappears into the kitchenette to wash a couple of glasses. She seems to take forever.



THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW

Tracey, I cry, what are you doing in there? "I gotta wash them really well," she cries. "They stink of vodka o'orange." She drinks rather excessively. Certainly, she was rivetingly pissed when, last December, she appeared on Channel 4's post-Turner Prize discussion and declared: "You're not relating to me oow. I'm drunk. I'm off to phone my mum," before tearing off her mike and storming out. She first got totally smashed on cider at 13. "I ended up with my top off, snogging some boy. Then, apparently, I went into a

Continued on page 9

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Portrait by Kirby Koh

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Roots of racism

Sir: There are issues which have been brought to the fore by the Stephen Lawrence inquiry which have not been addressed by the media.

While in many of our police forces there might well be a culture of sexism and racism, the police are but a segment of the wider society. Within the police, obviously its particular culture must be stamped out. Recruitment and training practices must be examined from an anti-racist perspective and excuses such as "it was meant as a joke" not tolerated.

What of the wider society? The five young men suspected of the crime are the products of their families, of the education system, of the media, as well as of the influences of their friends. The media could certainly examine itself more rigorously. Does it ever depict black people as anything but sportsmen and women, thugs or the body beautiful? Did it report Stephen's murder - and that of other young black men - with the same sense of outrage as if the victim had been white and the murderers black?

Our children, including those five young men, spend at least 10 years of their lives in school. Does the education system engender or combat racist perception of the world? For example, are our children familiarised in their English lessons with the work of those superb writers in English, including Nobel prize winners, whose skin is not "white"?

What of teachers and their trainers? It is the rare university history degree that includes anything on black peoples' history in Britain. In their training courses teachers are not helped to overcome their own prejudices, bias and possibly bigotry.

What of galleries and museums? Do they have regular exhibitions of non-European art and artefacts? Do our history museums include the black presence or are they more akin to a London museum whose recent exhibition on the "Soldiers of the Raj" focused on English officers.

Until we as a society examine ourselves and our institutions the racial prejudices engendered at least since the mid-nineteenth century will remain alive and well. **MARIKA SHERWOOD**
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Commonwealth Studies
University of London

Sir: If racism is part of being British in the Nineties ("Bigoted Britannia", 23 July) then maybe we need to set aside our disgust and go beyond blaming parents or the police if we are to find the real cause of racism.

Racists are people who fear change. If a society is to accommodate immigrant communities then it must be prepared to change. Immigrant communities display physical and cultural differences that represent change in the same way that the predicted increase in the number of Catholics in Northern Ireland represents change to the loyalist community.

Here in Britain, as in Northern Ireland, that force for change is threatening to those whose lives stand to be changed the most. I do not wish to justify racism, only explain it. I cannot help but think that if racism is endemic and on the increase in Britain, the adoption of further punitive measures to combat this trend cannot be anything other than counterproductive. **SIMON A McLEOD**
Woolsey Hole, Somerset

Sir: A more interesting question than why Hitler did what he did (Thursday Review, 23 July) is why this particular genocidal maniac is singled out for such sustained enquiry.

Why no such fascination with the American politicians and generals who set out to

exterminate native Americans or the British who set out to exterminate Australian Aborigines or African leaders who set out to destroy other African nations? Genocide is a defining human characteristic.

The answer can only be that Hitler set out to exterminate other white Europeans. In other words, the fascination is partly inspired by racism.

ALAN BARNETT
Grimsby, Lincolnshire

Gays and bishops

Sir: Clare Garner's report "Bishops in deadlock on gay priests" (24 July) is informative about the players in the debate within the Anglican Church on the issue of the ordination of sexually active homosexuals into the clergy. However, it does not sufficiently differentiate between this debate and the place of homosexuals in the church at large.

The African and Asian Bishops, currently being portrayed in the press as ranting homophobes, together wrote a sensitive and biblically accurate statement on human sexuality last year in Kuala Lumpur.

It said that heterosexuals and homosexuals who practice sex outside marriage live lives that are not in accordance with God's created order.

The church exists as a body of people who believe in Christ as Lord and Saviour and who meet together to encourage each other in their faith and in the battle against temptation, including temptation to have sex outside marriage. This temptation exists for all people, married, unmarried or homosexual.

Those who are ordained into

pastoral and scriptural oversight of the church must live by biblical teachings. Therefore, homosexuals who have become Christians and who have shown that they can resist sexual temptation can be ordained into ministry. If, however, they continue to have active sex lives, they cannot be ordained into ministry. Likewise, Christians who are unmarried and have premarital sex or married Christians who practice extra-marital sex cannot be considered for ordination into the clergy.

NEIL ROBBIE
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Sir: I agree with John Casey (Comment, 24 July) that "ages of consent" are a flawed legal concept, because they introduce a legal fiction and unnecessary punishment into what should be an effective framework of protection for the young. There is no justice in punishing their consenting sexual behaviour so long as no coercion, abuse of authority, or offence to

third parties, is involved.

However, carnal knowledge of a female below the age of 12 was a statutory offence since 1861. This was raised by Parliament to 13 in 1875, and to 16 in 1885. The difference between the age of consent regarding girls and the minimum age for male homosexual behaviour is that, whereas an underage girl commits no criminal offence, an underage boy engaging in homosexual activity does. This will remain the case after the respective ages are equalised unless this anomaly, too, is corrected as it should be.

ANTONY GRAY
London NW2

Teachers' pay

Sir: Payment of teachers by results will prove to be a waste of time, energy and money. It was tried a century ago and abandoned because it didn't work. The system was not exactly the same. Then, the entire budget of the school depended on the supposed

"quality" of the teachers' work; now they will be competing for above-scale payments. But it shared with the proposed model the same fundamental flaw: it assumed that education equals instruction and that the best educator is the one who can take a prescribed curriculum and "deliver" it most effectively to all types of children.

I beg to differ. I have seen "good" teachers, by the common standard, and "bad". I have been both. I have seen the dire results of strong, charismatic teachers whose pupils left them with high grades but no self-control and no thoughts of their own. I have seen the opposite, and all points between. The man who had the most influence on me as a youngster never knowingly controlled a class in his entire career. Another, almost equally influential, spent many happy hours explaining the morally questionable deeds of Horace, not because they were on the curriculum, but because he knew

what interested adolescent boys. Neither would have been deemed an advanced-skills teacher, both deserved to be.

The Government's educational policy will founder on the same rocks as the last one's did. It assumes that we are just one big idea away from the perfect system. The truth is that the present approach to education, prescriptive, adult-centred and monolithic as it is, has had its day, and needs to be replaced by something which recognises how radically different the next century will be.

CHRISTOPHER R SHUTE
Polesworth, Staffordshire

Thatcher heritage

Sir: If the National Trust is looking for more 20th-century properties to buy, following its purchase and restoration of Paul McCartney's house (report, 22 July) I hope it is actively considering Lady Thatcher's childhood home in Grantham.

Apart from its special interest as the birthplace of Britain's first woman prime minister, Alfred Roberts's famous shop, accurately reconstructed, would make a fascinating museum in its own right. The living quarters upstairs would need considerable restoration to convert them back from their present use as consulting rooms; but the effort would be well worth while. There could be no more suitable or evocative modern property for the Trust to buy for the nation.

If they are thinking of buying it, however, they should move quickly while Lady Thatcher and her sister are both able to advise on its accurate restoration.

Dr JOHN CAMPBELL
London, W11

Great War 'cowards'

Sir: The oldest resident in our village died two weeks ago, aged 99. In the Spring of 1918 he was on sentry duty on the Western Front when the German offensive began. A shell exploding nearby left him with shrapnel wounds in the face and a hole through his arm. At night, in hospital, he pushed a copper coin into a hole to infect it. In his own words, "We all did it, anything rather than go back." His attempts to avoid returning failed and, as the war drew to a close, he was ordered back, this time to be gassed.

I suppose his actions in hospital in 1918 were a form of desertion or cowardice. Had he been discovered perhaps it would have been right to execute him by firing squad. Eighty five per cent of the executions during the First World War resulted from those offences. In almost all cases the court martial proceedings were hurried and mitigating circumstances omitted when the records of the trials were sent behind the lines to higher-ranking officers who, preoccupied by discipline and often with little experience of the front line, failed to commute the sentences.

Eighty years later, three months before the anniversary of the Armistice, another group of high-ranking officials has refused to pardon those 263 men who deserted or were cowards because "we cannot distinguish between those who deliberately let down their country and their comrades in arms, and those who were not guilty of desertion or cowardice." ("Pardons refused for army deserters", 25 July). As Wilfred Owen writes:

But cursed are dullards whom no cannon stuns,

That they should be as stones; Wretched are they, and mean With paucity that never was

By choice they made themselves

To pity and whatever mourns

LAWRENCE FORRESTER
Dorchester

Engineers' mission

Sir: Dr Alan Cribbens (letter, 23 July) doth protest too much. His valiant attempt to restore the image of engineering is all very well but wide of the mark. It is true that the role of science is largely a passive one in explaining what and why things happen, but engineering is not much better. It is technology, the application of knowledge, scientific, engineering or both, which has enriched this world of ours. It is the know-how that matters, not the know-what.

Once upon a time engineering itself was good at technology and in many spheres of large structures it still is. But engineering, as taught, is now seen to be just another branch of objective knowledge, heavily laden with facts, the know-what, including mathematical descriptions of it. When engineering rediscovers its human mission to solve problems, to design in context, please customers (rather than itself) and make products that can be sold, it will soon recover the public's respect. With a human face, it will even attract students again. **Professor Sir GRAHAM HILLS**
Inverness

Countryside notes

Sir: Yes, America's *Field and Stream* magazine did say of *Lady Chatterley* something like, "The book cannot take the place of J R Miller's *Practical Gamekeeper*." ("The worst 100 books of the century", 24 July) But it was just the punchline of a marvellous spoof review by Ed Zern, who wrote the magazine's "Exit Laughing" column, in which he also celebrated the doings of the fabled Madison Avenue Rod, Gun, Bloody Mary and Labrador Retriever Club.

CLIVE GAMMON
Swansea

O! Brave New reshuffled Labour that has such people in't!

EARLIER THIS YEAR I printed some extracts from the newly rediscovered play by Shakespeare, *The History of King Tony, or New Love's Labour Lost*, and I am sometimes asked if there is any more of it.

Certainly there is! Today I bring you part of the stormy "reshuffle" scene, which marks the end of King Tony's first year in power, and is, I think, full of dramatic interest.

The scene is King Tony's court at Westminster, where several senior courtiers are discussing their promotion prospects, including Lady Harriet Harman, Milady Mowlam, Lord Tony Banks, Baron Blunkett, etc, with the Duke of Livingstone concealed behind a curtain, listening. Lord Dobson: Now comes the

time, as summer creeps apace. / When all the court looks back a year and says: / 'Twas this time, twelve months back, that our fair king / Did climb the throne as Anthony the First / And give out titles, jobs and sinecures / To those who had befriended him before. / But officers of state are not in place for long. / And kings may pull them down just to seem strong.

Duke Cook: It's time that he should make some drastic changes. Blunkett: Aye, and time to tremble in our shoes. / In case it's us who're destined for the chop.

Lord Tony Banks: You're safe, at least, old man! For who would dare / Dismiss a kindly blind man and his dog! / That would look bad. Not even Tony's men / Could spin it round so it looked good again. Blunkett: Lord

Banks, you never could resist a scurvy joke. / You ope your mouth before you stop to think. / You're first to make a quip, I grant you that, / But last to be promoted, for that very reason. Banks: Am I not master of the king's own games and sports? Blunkett: Aye, and will be five years hence! No other place / In Whitehall would admit your grinning face!

Duke Cook: The king is minded to promote Jack Cunningham. / Or so it's said, to be his Grand Vizier. Milady Mowlam: To be his WHAT?

Duke Cook: To fill this new post dreamt up by our king, / The Fixer-General, Chef d'Affaires, / Great Lord of Pulling Strings Behind the Royal Scenes ... Blunkett: Ah yes, the Great Big Whitehall Farjandrum! / But this, I thought, was privily

earmarked to be the private fief of Mandelson ... All spit upon the ground at mention of the name. Duke Cook: I would not see that upstart hoisted thus! / That wily, weaselly lizard with forked



MILES KINGTON

An extract from 'The History of King Tony, or New Love's Labour Lost'

tongue. / I would not trust him further than I see him. Blunkett: I see him not at all, and yet I trust him ... Cook: You trust Lord Mandelson? You must be mad! Blunkett: I see him not at all, and yet I trust him / To rise as far as boundless ambition springs. / He rises far who has the ear of kings ...

Lord Banks: But soft! I see the king himself who comes, / Walking and musing, and sighing too, I ween. / The affairs of state weigh heavy on his brain. / Let's go and cheer him up as he comes by!

Blunkett: Nay, let's have no more jokes from you, Lord Banks. / The way you cheer up men makes them feel worse. / Let's rather stand away and lend an ear, / Perchance we shall, as he walks by, hear words / That tell

us what he privily purposes. The courtiers withdraw as the king slowly walks past, musing out loud.

King Tony: Alas, poor Harriet! You were always good / On Question Time, and radio's Any Questions! / You shone in opposition, a coming star / Now look how slow you move. I must devise / A way of firing you without it seeming so. / Welfare was your brief, as far as I can tell, / It's now reversed, and welfare becomes farewell!

Lord Banks: [Aside] I never thought to hear the king, alone, / Make jokes much worse than mine! Excuse my groan ...

King Tony: And Doctor Jack, Lord Cunningham - where shall I move you so that you can do least harm? / I cannot let you make another gaffe / Like "beef on the bone". That was far too naif ... / And Mistress Mowlam!

You have done so well / In Northern Ireland, that I'll keep you there. / Duke Prescott seems quite happy playing with cars, / And Gordon-Brown will chunter on for hours, / Explaining things to anyone who'll listen ... / Once I understood the British economy. / Then Gordon-Brown explained it. Now it's a mystery ...

King Tony exits, still talking to himself. The courtiers come out of the shadows.

Blunkett: Come, we have heard enough. Now let's away. / To carry on our plot some other day. Exeunt. Duke of Livingstone comes out of hiding.

Livingstone: I fear them not. For all they want is power. / Wait till I'm London's Mayor! / Then comes my hour! Exit Duke of Livingstone.

More of this soon, I hope.

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Our policy should be clear: to give the Serbs a bloody nose

WHAT IS happening now in Kosovo is sickening. Thousands of civilians are on the move, driven from their homes by Serbian forces who are fighting a ruthless war against Kosovan separatists.

It is particularly alarming because it is exactly what was predicted. Two months ago, the pandrums of the new world order, President Clinton and Secretary Albright, wrung their hands and urgently reviewed the situation, ably supported by the practitioners of ethical foreign policy, Prime Minister Blair and Foreign Secretary Cook. There was going to be a conference. Military plans were being drawn up. We were allowed to believe that further Serbian aggression would be met by the threat of force from NATO. What has happened? Nothing, apart from unsuccessful negotiations led by Richard Holbrooke, Mr Clinton's Balkan envoy. Negotiations, and the ominous rolling of Serbian tanks.

It is, of course, easy to call for western military intervention in Kosovo, and difficult and dangerous to carry it out. That is always the argument against the armchair warmonger. It is all very well to get steamed up about injustices in foreign countries from the comfort of our green, pleasant and generally peaceful land. It is quite another to be one of the soldiers who has to try to sort out those injustices on the ground. It may be a good argument for caution, but as a policy it is craven.

Neville Chamberlain justified the policy of appeasement when he spoke of a "quarrel in a faraway country between people of whom we know nothing". Kosovo is not even a country but a province; of its people we know even less than we did of the Czechs and Sudeten Germans. All most of us know is that the Kosovans are mostly ethnic Albanians and that they do not like the Serbs. But the moral issue is as clear-cut as it was in 1938. And we do not even have to go that far back for a precedent. In Bosnia, the lesson in both morality and self-interest was stark.

We may not know much of Kosovo and the Kosovans, the history of how the borders there were drawn in 1913 and everything that has happened since. But we know a thing or two about Serbian aggression. We did not want to be drawn into the Bosnian conflict, but slowly recognised that it was in our interest, as Europeans, to resist Serbia. The Balkan tensions still have the capacity to ignite war between Greece and Turkey, or to draw the Russian army into adventures. It may have been hard for President Clinton to persuade swing-voters in Peo-



ria that the manner of the disintegration of Yugoslavia mattered to them, but that argument was woe in the House of Commons by Paddy Ashdown some time ago.

It is all the more surprising, then, that the lessons of Bosnia have not been applied to Kosovo. So far, the West has allowed itself to become bogged down in an argument about objectives. Indeed, there are a series of hard-to-solve problems. The Kosovans are divided between those who want to be independent and those who want to be part of Albania - neither option is particularly desirable from the wider point of view. The West refused to carve up Bosnia: why should it now carve

up Serbia? Some kind of internationally-guaranteed autonomy within Serbia would satisfy neither side, but should form the basis of a compromise. But the true objective of western policy should be clear: to give the Serbian military a bloody nose if it pursues its policy of repression in Kosovo.

It is already too late to save thousands of Kosovans from the encroaching forces, the same forces that gave the phrase "ethnic cleansing" to the world. Awful stories of gouged eyes, slit throats and burnings alive run ahead of them. We delayed too long in Bosnia. We must not compound the error of delay in Kosovo any further.

The people's money is not for the fat cats

LEAVE ASIDE all the other possible objections to the National Lottery: two things should have prompted more anxiety than they did. First, there was that ominous phrase, "good causes", which should have set off alarm bells. Second, there was the accumulation of utterly vast amounts of money which would be neither private nor public but which would have to be spent. It was a recipe for disaster, and so far it is blessing that the worst that has happened has been the unnecessary enrichment of a new class of consultants and the building of a few unwanted structures.

The Dome has spawned enough comment and commentary to keep several academics busy on their PhDs: at least it has potential uses. Today we report on a less visible phenomenon - the waste of vast amounts of money, soaked up by a mass of grant-brokers and scheme-peddlers all over the country. Everywhere it is the same: the skills that the lottery bonanza rewards are those of the lobbyist. Just as lobbyist becomes a dirty word at Westminster, the same sort of people are springing up lower down the food chain, selling fancy plans for theatres, art houses, parks, monuments and sports facilities to local councils, quangos with "partnership" in their title and ultimately to the Millennium Doings-Out Mooney Commission. On this last body sit busy and famous people with short attention-spans, who nod through anything with an environmentally-sustainable logo and a good advertising catch line.

This is no way to spend public money. It was Tony Blair who reminded us during the election campaign that this was the "people's money" and promised it would go on the "people's priorities". Then he said yes to the Dome and starting splitting hairs, saying it was not "taxpayers' money". Sure it isn't - it is much worse. This preposterous gravy train is being paid for by the poor people's money - the poor spend disproportionately more of their income on the lottery than the rich. Lottery money should be spent in a way which benefits the less-well-off, not on creating a new breed of fat cats.

King size warning

THE WARNINGS on cigarette packs are already pretty direct. Smoking Kills. Smoking Gives You Heart Disease. What do smokers do? They read them - and then they light up. Now, according to a report in a Sunday newspaper, packs could carry an even more arresting message. Smoking Shrinks Your Willy. That really will make at least half the population think twice.

Ideas, not just personalities, are at stake in the Cabinet reshuffle

THE RUN-UP to the Cabinet reshuffle has been extraordinarily brutal, even by the boot-boy standards of Westminster's rough trade. Leninist and Trotskyite factions of the Soviet Communist Party in the 1930s were probably nicer about each other.

For most of the year, pundits thirsting for a diverting disagreement or two are treated to rebuttals which go something like: "It's absolutely nonsense that Fred and Bob don't get along - just media little-tattle." Fred's special adviser adds: "They have a very cordial working relationship." The last phrase indicates unadulterated loathing.

As Mr Blair dalled over his summer disposition of portfolios, the rebuttals have undergone a radical makeover. "Obviously," said Fred's special adviser to anyone who will listen, "Bob has lost it lately. Did you know his wife has been going round saying that she's going to live in No 10 one day?" Bob announces that Fred is "gifted, but limited: a bit paranoid".

The language is of feuds and feuds, turf wars and spheres of influence. It is easy to conclude that these clashes are nothing more than the clash of hyper-stimulated egos, that there is nothing of substance behind the factional fights and that the main characters involved are mere reincarnations of Napoleon and Snowball, intriguing for control of Animal Farm. But without ideas, these personal handwagons would not roll as inexorably as they do. Ideas - indeed ideology - still matter in politics, whatever the cynics or post-modernists tell you. The end of the Cold War and Francis Fukuyama's declaration of the end

of history mark the extent to which we still have choices to make, and the way that these alternatives lurk behind the factional infighting.

New Labour is still torn about the nature of its Big Idea. Some of its big intellectual guns regard it as an advanced form of perestroika, restructuring the familiar Labour aims - greater equality, a continued role for the trade unions in modernised form, the desire to blunt the rougher edge of the free market.

But a powerful force behind the creation of the Blairite party was the desire to completely realign the centre left as a force clearly separated from the flow of Labour politics since the First World War. The provisional wing of Blairism accepts key parts of Thatcherite reforms and linking the acceptance of free markets and free trade with a broader vision of the good society, in which the protection of people and their opportunities are licensed by the state, but not necessarily provided by it.

The first interpretation of New Labour's raison d'être has a powerful representative on earth in the form of the Gordon Brown. Mr Brown does not believe that Labour's traditions are obsolete. He is emotionally and intellectually committed to the Labour Party. His approach to spending upholds the fundamental left-wing belief that the state is a benevolent and efficient agent of change - as long as the Treasury keeps an eye on it in a three-year time-and-motion study.

The Chancellor believes that New Labour is part of a continuum in the life of the Labour movement. Mr Blair and his radical acolytes do not. They



ANNE MCELVOY
Ideas - indeed ideology - still matter in politics, whatever the cynics or post-modernists tell you

see most of what is proudly termed "the Labour century" as an unfortunate aberration which must be corrected if the centre left is to become the natural party of government in the 21st century.

Their tribal instincts are far closer to an earlier progressive alliance of social reformers and liberals. But big ideas are not easily superimposed from the end of one century to the next. The centre-left, like the old left, is not immune from the temptation to romanticise the past. Hence the casting of Mr Blair variously as Gladstone or Lloyd George. It is almost desperately keen to find, lurking somewhere in the diffuse Blairite project a moral crusade to match theirs.

Let's keep a sense of proportion. Parts of the modern reformist project - constitutional reform, encouraging mutual provision for hardship rather than farming out the duty of care to the

state - would be familiar to 19th century liberals. But New Labour is the product of a different time with different strengths and weaknesses. Gladstone's Britain was a confident imperial power; not a country in the grip of a devolutionary trauma and unsure about how best to establish its place in an integrated Europe.

Gladstone's politics were driven by the tireless pursuit of causes; he exuded an earnestness which is tempered in New Labour by the relativism of the late 20th century. It would be unfair to blame Mr Blair for this - one cannot erase the impact of a more knowing society. The gentler pace of the 19th century allowed politicians to develop their ideas and be prepared to lose elections because they believed a cause worth the sacrifice - as Gladstone believed of Irish Home Rule.

Contemporary political careers are shorter. Our expectations, if not the statute book, have embraced the US presidential restriction of two terms in power. My strong impression is that Mr Blair is motivated by a desire to remain at the helm for 10 years and that he would happily step down after that. So he has to decide quickly what his priorities are and stick to them. Early enthusiasm for rapid, radical reform of the welfare state has waned. He does not have long to decide what the milestones of his period in power are to be and how he intends to erect them.

Gordon Brown's rather different vision will be well represented in this reshuffle because he has used his time in government to forge a discreet but compelling agenda of his own. Mr Blair, who has spent much of his time trouble-shooting and entangled with

the EU presidency, has not driven forward his own agenda with the same energy. The number of policy advisers in No 10 grows and grows. Apart from wondering how, like the old women's children, they fit into this shoe of a modest terraced house, I am also bemused by what they do all day in there.

The policy unit eschews its eponymous duty of forging future policy initiatives in favour of pursuit of vaguely attitudinal packages. They set Mr Blair off looking for the Third Way, a quest from which he has yet to return. A basic rule of political enquiry is that it is unwise to start searching for something that you cannot find. The Third Way, by definition, is a state which is not one thing and not another. Whatever it is said to be, someone else will say it is not. It lacks the surety factor of a ready political idea.

New Labour is in danger of forgetting what it was created to do. For all its complexity, politics reduces to some stark choices. Mr Blair has to decide how far he chooses to challenge the expectations citizens have of the state. The loosening of public spending curbs, lacklustre defence of university tuition fees, a slackening of tempo in pensions reform (which may grind to a halt if the messianic Frank Field is beheaded this week) suggest that there are doubts at a high level about a truly radical New Labour agenda.

A seductive but less edifying precedent for New Labour than the revival of Gladstonian ideals is the Whig party in the wake of the Reform Bill. It did very little else to reform the country, albeit with a certain patrician grace. That is the temptation Mr Blair now faces. He must not succumb to it.

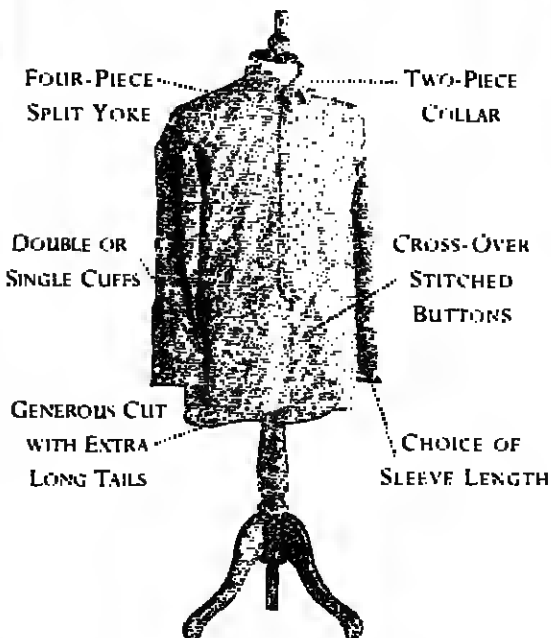
QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am not sure why Mr Mandelson is so special that he justifies a cabinet job"
Andrew Mackinlay, Labour backbencher

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Imitation is criticism"
William Blake,
English poet and artist

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The portrait of the suspect, Russell Weston, Jr emerges with a tiresome recognition: isolated, laden with grudges; and delusional. Not content to tear apart their own lives, such killers, still blessedly rare, seek out schoolyards, workplaces and public buildings to destroy the lives of others.
Boston Globe

Most Americans long ago realised that official places can be an attractive venue for individuals with a felt grievance against the authority and symbolism these places convey.

That forces upon the keepers of public places a requirement to prepare for the sort of incident the Hill experienced. That requirement in turn cuts across the dedication to openness of American society and government alike. It is a burden, of course, that falls with special weight upon the police and other law enforcement personnel. They are called upon to deal personally with a condition - the widespread availability of guns - that most of the rest of us experience only as members of the larger society. Two of those officers died

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The American press's reaction to the shootings at the Capitol



after a terrible moment in the Capitol. Their service and their sacrifice deserve our respect.
Washington Post

Even with the tighter security of recent years, and for all its importance as a center [sic] of

government and national symbol, the Capitol remains a relatively open place. Hordes of tourists are shepherded through on a typical day, and they have access to many rooms and corridors. Given the history of violence there, it

may be surprising that the building is as open as it is.
New York Times

This is not a moment to be making hasty pronouncements about lax gun laws or inadequate security. We'll need to know more about the assailant before drawing conclusions about the relevance of gun laws. As for security, it has been purposely kept low-key at the Capitol on the premise that the building should be as accessible as possible to the people. No doubt the details of security there will need to be reconsi-

dered. But the presumption of maximum accessibility should not be abandoned. After all, whose Capitol is it, anyway?
Newsday

As the incident is examined, a balance will have to be struck between the safety needs of the public and the accessibility to the workings of government that this democracy requires. Keeping the doors open - but vigilantly monitored - should signal any would-be attackers that the nation's business will not be stopped.
The Dallas Morning News

PANDORA

DR JIM Swire, the 61-year-old GP from Bromsgrove, Birmingham, who lost his daughter in the Lockerbie bombing, has tirelessly represented the families of the mostly American victims since 1988. As his efforts now seem to be close to achieving a trial in The Hague of the two Libyans allegedly responsible, Pandora has learned that part of Swire's perseverance stems from the formative influence of his housemaster at Eton, Richard Martineau.

"He was absolutely trustworthy, he could never have been a politician," was how Swire described his old teacher to Pandora yesterday. Although Martineau taught classics and Swire was more interested in science, Martineau impressed upon him "the importance of establishing one's own identity and of standing by that in honourable terms". Swire's stubborn loyalty to the cause of justice in the Lockerbie case surely deserves to be honoured in the next Civil List.

ARE THE Tories going to quit their Smith Square headquarters, under the prudent influence of Asda chairman Archie Norman? "We are not moving. Well, we're not moving for quite some time to come," declared a party spokesman somewhat ambiguously recently.

At the same time, the Liberal Democrats, who inhabit nearby Cowlet Street, are "looking at possible premises". Pandora suggests that the two parties might consider a straight swap. "I don't think so somehow," was the Lib Dem spokeswoman's response. "The connotations of the building's history might raise a few eyebrows." But surely the Lib Dems, with their New Age sensitivities, must recognise the amazing "feng shui" at Smith Square, which was the



nation's seat of political power for 18 years. With those kind of good vibes, who cares about a few raised eyebrows?

NOW THAT they have made Paul McCartney's childhood Liverpool home a national landmark, the National Trust is looking ahead to future pop enshrinedments. "The Spice Girls have only been around for a few years," said a National Trust spokesman recently. "But if they do not fade into insignificance and are still around it may be possible." One neighbour of Geri Halliwell (pictured), the former Ginger Spice who grew up on Liverpool's Jubilee Road, was sceptical. "I don't think Geri's mum would be very pleased. Besides, she has told me that she has no intention of moving out." Meanwhile, despite Geri's retirement, the girl group's popularity continues to soar. Only last Wednesday, Bruce Willis and Demi Moore recessed their divorce fight long enough to take their daughters to a Spice Girl concert in Ohio.

"THE ONLY way to get more children to go to Islington schools is to make Islington schools better," suggests Mr Phil Kelly in the latest edition of the *Highbury & Islington Express*. Sound, knowledgeable advice coming from the former chairman of Islington Council's education committee, who, during his tenure, sent his own children to a school outside the borough in Tufnell Park.

THE ANTI-Rucksack On The Tube Campaign is about to announce its National Rucksack Awareness Day. Unlike most such days, however, its goal will not be to raise public awareness to the rucksack issue. It will, instead, concentrate on making rucksack wearers themselves truly "aware" of the hideous, bulky, potentially hurtful lump that they wear unthinkingly in crowded public places. One major problem, however, has been to find a date not already occupied by another awareness day. Yesterday, for example, was "International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade". Next Saturday will launch "National Ghost Hunting Weekend". Some dates are now hopelessly congested with awareness.

On 14 September begins not only the first day of National Payroll Week, but also Don't Forget the Flowers Week, National Cat Week and Kellogg's National Breakfast Week. At this rate, with more than 375 campaigns scheduled, our Anti-Rucksack Campaign is having difficulty finding a window in the British public diary.

How I beat bureaucracy in extra time



FRAN ABRAMS

It's from the "I'm-sure-as-hell-not-going-to-be-the-one-who-lets-the-cat-out-of-the-bag school"

THIS IS an everyday story of a public document. Not a very exciting public document. I have to admit - the accounts of the Duchy of Lancaster, to be precise - but public, nevertheless. That means you and I can see it. But the saga of how I finally wrested it from the grasp of officialdom involves three government departments, three different Houses of Commons offices, a host of bureaucrats and bucketloads of frustration.

Our paper was published last Tuesday. You will find the announcement in *Hansard*, column 443, just underneath "Open Government White Paper". It was dribbled out via a planted written question to the Cabinet Office. The reply said simply that the accounts of the Duchy had been laid before the House.

So, on the off chance that the paper might contain something of interest, on Tuesday evening I popped into the Vote Office, the conduit for Commons papers, to pick up a copy. However, the officials there had not seen it. Next morning, I phoned them. Still no sign, despite quite an extensive search. So I phoned the Cabinet Office. They would phone me back, they said.

Which they duly did, only to tell me that although they had answered the question, the Treasury had laid the document. Don't ask them why, they said.

So I phoned the Treasury. They would phone me back, they said. Which they did, only to say that, although they had laid the document, the Cabinet Office was dealing with press inquiries about it.

"But they've just sent me to you," I squeaked.

Finally they agreed to look into the matter. A little later I received a call to say the document had been laid not in the Commons but in the House of Lords - in the Journals Office and the Printed Paper Office.

This was quite a development. I had had many dealings with the Printed Paper Office - the Lords' equivalent of the Vote Office - but I hadn't come across the Journals Office before. So I telephoned them. They only had two copies and could not give them out.

Then I phoned the Printed Paper Office. The woman in charge was too busy to respond to a telephone request. I would have to come in, she said. So, after a five-minute walk from the press gallery to the other end of the Palace, I presented myself. Without a word she heaved herself to her feet, went into a back room and tapped something into a keyboard.

A few moments later, she emerged. No, she said. Nothing on her computer.

"But it was laid here," I protested. Well it wasn't on her

computer, and that was that.

I tried a new tack. "So how will I get a copy?"

Now we started to make progress. It would be in the laying papers, she conceded.

What did that mean? It meant, she explained to me, as if dealing with a stupid child, that it was in the laying papers.

At that point, the phone rang and she broke off to answer it. Suddenly she was Sibyl Fawcett on a good day. "Oh Hello, Lord Snootytrout. No, no! No problem at all! We'll just pack them up and send them over to you. No really, no trouble! Bye."

She put down the receiver and her face snapped shut. She scanned the almost-empty room behind me. Could she help anyone else?

Finally, we got back to business. She could look in the laying papers, she said, but she was too busy. I would have to come back in an hour.

Returning breathless to my eyrie, I was not optimistic. So I phoned the Treasury again. They would look into it again, they said. And sure enough, within half an hour, victory was at hand. They could get a copy, and I could pick it up. Triumph!

After a nervous moment when the document wasn't in reception as promised, a brown envelope was placed into my hands. It wasn't hugely exciting, though there was a tantalising revelation that the Duchy, which turns out to own 47,000 acres of Northern England, has disposed of 4,500 of them in the past five years. Even if it had been exciting, none of the officials I had dealt with would have known.

There was no conspiracy here. There rarely is. It's another "C" that puts a fine filter on what the public is and is not allowed to know: culture. It's the "not-if-I-can-help-it-I'm-sure-as-hell-not-going-to-be-the-one-who-lets-the-cat-out-of-the-bag school of bureaucracy". Information is dangerous stuff, best kept under lock and key except when absolutely necessary to divulge it.

This culture is not about the wickedness of individuals. Most of the ones I dealt with were perfectly charming. It's just that accretions of resistance have built up, staccato-like, over the centuries. And even a Freedom of Information Act - when we finally get one - won't chip that away quickly.

The politics of culture requires the artistic touch



TREVOR PHILLIPS

Chris Smith has craftily begun to appropriate the Prime Minister's own language

WHEN IT comes down to it, the personalities of those reshuffled today do not really matter that much. Most ministers are utterly anonymous to most of the public. The only one who needs to be preserved for the nation is the inimitable Tony Banks. Having got England to the quarter-finals of the World Cup, and carefully managed our tennis players through this year's Grand Prix tournaments, the man is clearly a bona fide working mascot. He should keep his job, even if the PM has to fit him with a muzzle.

However, the names will signal something important to those who read the runes for a living. In the arcane language of the Whitehall village, the Prime Minister will be sending a series of small signals about his intentions for the future. For this we need to look both at who gets the individual departments and exactly what those departments are.

One of the most interesting signs may come from the Department of Media, Culture and Sport, widely seen, when Mr Blair came into office, as a backwater. In the past, it has been the parking place for senior politicians for whom no other home could be found. Thus, Chris Smith has been earmarked by many commentators for the chop in favour of Mr Mandelson, who has to be found a place at the Cabinet table.

The appointment of Mr Mandelson seems unwise to me, both for his own interests and for those of the arts. The Minister without Portfolio has been the PM's ear, but that may not give him clout with the Treasury. In addition, a move to the DCMS creates two very specific technical problems for him. As Secretary of State, he would become Chair of the Millennium Commission, the funder of his beloved Dome; becoming Culture Secretary would probably mean he would have to surrender creative authority over the Greenwich Miracle.

media outlets in the hands of, let us say, Mirror Group Newspapers, or News International.

And I can tell him from personal experience, the DCMS will not protect him from being involved in turf wars with other ministers. Indeed, it will encourage them to peck away at him. There are few things more likely to get the ministerial phones huzzing, than the imminent closure of a favoured local theatre or art gallery, or the failure of a regional arts centre's lottery bid.

When I was at the centre of a minor controversy over the withdrawal of funds from one London theatre company, I found myself the recipient of calls from no less than four departments of state in one week. Two were from ministers themselves, the others from their servants: all four politely enquired as to whether I was absolutely confident that I was doing the right thing, and courteously suggested that a delay in the decision might be wise. Fortunately for the artists who depend on my resisting such pressures, I am not yet a politician (though, who knows - I keep reading that the people may yet call me to my destiny). I had to tell all four callers that they were wasting their breath. If, however, I were an ambitious politician, this is exactly the sort of decision I would want to avoid.

There are positive reasons to leave Chris Smith where he is. In spite of the whispering that he has been less than effective, he has done the one thing that demonstrates a Minister's clout: he got more money - £290m - out of the Treasury, by making the sort of "tough love" noises which up until now have been the province of Jack Straw and Blair himself. Second, he persuaded the Prime Minister to guarantee that the arts would retain its current share of lottery money, instead of - as the



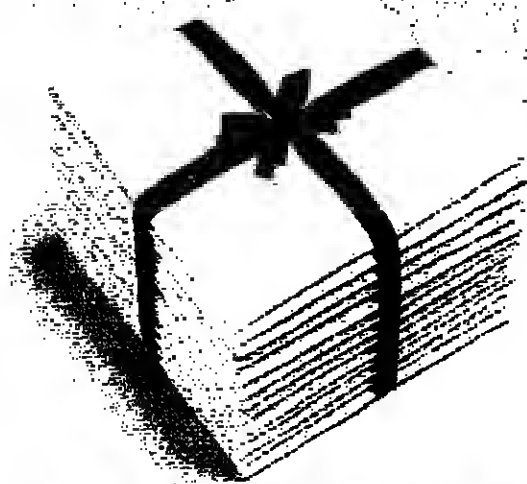
Don't send a Peter Mandelson to replace a Chris Smith

Treasury would prefer - leaving the lottery funds as a convenient pool of ready cash to be raided for new schemes in other departments. Third, he has managed to get the Number 10 apparatus to give the arts status. As I reported here a few weeks back, the PM held a meeting this month with many of the great and good from the arts; it was only the third such meeting, after sessions on health and education, clearly suggesting that this is no longer a duty call to keep the luvvies happy.

Smith has craftily begun to appropriate the Prime Minister's own language to describe his brief. Thus, he both emphasises its centrality to The Project, and also boosts its importance. Education, education, education now seems to encompass (for example) access to museums, and the growth of the multimedia business.

The issues of what is education and what is entertainment, the need for a new regulatory framework for all media, and the growing question of how to handle the increasing control of sport by TV and entertainment moguls are all tricky. The battles will be played out in the columns of the tabloids, so the Culture Secretary will have to be sure-footed and focused.

Smith has made much of this territory his own, and now looks like the man who understands what to do. His sometimes ebullient style could even turn out to be an asset. It would be odd, indeed, to remove the man who has orchestrated the transition to a new era, at this stage - especially when the alternative appears to be someone whose own notoriety would make the process even bumpier than it needs to be.

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Learn the peace lesson of Chernobyl

TODAY, FOR the first time, I saw Chernobyl. It looms as a menacing monument to mistakes of the century now slipping away from us - a hulking symbol of human decisions unworthy of our children.

I walked through the abandoned town of Pripyat. I saw an amusement park that looked like a haunted playground. Ten-story apartment buildings stood empty and abandoned. Four-lane highways led nowhere. And I wondered: what has become of the people who lived here? What has become of the children?

Perhaps I should have been better prepared for the emotional impact of seeing Chernobyl. Twelve years ago, just like everybody else, I heard the horrible news: Reactor 4 at the Vladimir Ilich Lenin Atomic Power Plant in Chernobyl had suffered a runaway chain reaction that destroyed the core of the reactor and blasted graphite and reactor fuel through the roof.

The full count of Chernobyl's dead can never be known, because radioactivity seeps silently into the human body, taking its time before

taking its victims. But today the children of Chernobyl have many times the average rate of cancer, and many times the average rate of psychiatric problems. Worse still is the fear: fear of radiation, of sickness, and that one's own children will be born neither healthy nor whole.

What has become of the children of Chernobyl? Unlike those who are evacuated for hurricanes, or floods they can never come home. Their fates challenge us: will this be the last nuclear disaster, or just one of the first?

The lesson of Chernobyl is not an indictment of nuclear power as such. Nuclear power, designed well, regulated properly, cared for meticulously, has a place in the world's energy supply. Certainly the lesson of Chernobyl is not that we should retreat from new technology. Technology used for human reasons, in humane hands, holds the promise of improving the quality of our lives.

The real lesson of Chernobyl is the need for redemption. The need to learn from our mistakes is apparent in the place itself. There is not yet any sign of forgiveness there but we



AL GORE

The Vice President of the US urges the world to learn the lesson of Chernobyl in a speech given at the Chernobyl museum, Kiev.

can be redeemed. The truth, as we have been taught, will set us free. And the truth taught by Chernobyl is that we are all connected - forever.

We can evolve not just with our technologies, but with our hearts. And we must. Fratricidal conflicts tear at our world and new weapons make the potential consequences much greater. Only in our hearts will we find the way to healing.

For what is the difference between the Bosnians and Serbs? Between Catholics and Protes-

tants in Northern Ireland? Between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East? All, it's true, worship God in different ways. But it is the same God. And I'll wager, from the depth of my conviction, that from God's point of view, looking down on Chernobyl and the rest of the world, he sees one family.

One family in Pakistan, in India. The world recently learnt that a series of nuclear tests were conducted by India. Pakistan responded with tests of its own. The Indian and Pakistani tests jeopardize international efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. And the back-to-back tests might provoke another round of military competition between India and Pakistan perhaps eventually triggering another war.

We appeal to the wisdom of the Indian and Pakistani peoples and their leaders to do what they urged us to do during our dangerous, nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union: come to the table. Sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Sit down together; negotiate; make peace. Join the peacemakers. The ranks are growing every day.

Ukraine has been a peacemaker. It has earned the thanks of a grateful world for renouncing and dismantling its nuclear weapons. Argentina and Brazil are peacemakers now. As their countries moved from military rule to civilian rule, from dictatorships to democracies, they agreed as neighbours to renounce the development and deployment of nuclear weapons. India and Pakistan can do the same.

In India and Pakistan, one finds some of the most ancient and deepest spiritual traditions on the planet. They know how to use the wisdom of Islam and Hinduism to illuminate our brotherhood and sisterhood. That truth will save us.

As I reflect on what I have seen today of the tragedy of Chernobyl, and the hope inspired as Ukraine's children grow up stronger and safer and freer than their parents, I call us to join hands and forces to turn the best wisdom of the world into new laws and new treaties, heralding a new era of co-operation - so that we may not fall apart, but come together; so that we may not perish, but flourish.

صكنا من الامل

Who's afraid of the movies?



JOHN WALSH
Film critics find that
celluloid, if not
conscience, doth make
cowards of us all

I FEEL a strange empathy with Temporary Sub-Lieutenant Edwin Dyett. He was a 21-year-old naval officer when, in 1916, he was drafted into the infantry. No thanks, he told the draft board. I'm not cut out to be a soldier. I'm a sailor. Being an officer on board a warship - fine; being an infantryman fighting at ground level - no, I know my limitations. But they wouldn't listen to him, they sent him to the infantry, and off to the Somme he went.

In the Nelson Battalion in the trenches, he became increasingly edgy, even more than men on the edge of war tend to become. Eventually he was ordered to go over the top and advance in the dark towards the guns. Instead, he turned round and headed back to headquarters.

So they shot him. Edwin had accurately assessed his own shortcomings, had proved himself right about not being cut out for trench warfare - and he was court-martialled and shot at dawn for being right.

Nearly a century after that shameful episode, he is part of the awkward squad of 308 dead soldiers whose families are looking for a pardon from the Government. John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, rationalizes it thus: "Now, 80 years after the events... we cannot distinguish between those who deliberately let down their country and their comrades in arms, and those who were not guilty of desertion or cowardice."

Do you trip over that word "deliberately" with its curious suggestion that blind, neurotic panic is somehow a choice you make, a rational, volitional act? Do you wonder about the phrase "guilty of cowardice", as if cowardice were a vice, like defrauding widows, or a sin, like blasphemy?

Cowardice simply means "lack of bravery". It means not being temperamentally disposed to intrepid or courageous behaviour, not having the requisite bottle. It is not a moral shortcoming but a martial shortcoming - just as being "guilty of aggressiveness" is a shortcoming in time of peace. To execute someone for being a "deliberate" coward makes no sense. And to kill Edwin Dyett, a brave but thwarted sailor, because the army misunderstood his useful-



'Saving Private Ryan' is a depiction of unrelenting horror, but Spielberg's production leaves you with the suspicion that it is a little too formulaic

ness - well, it makes you want to round up the original draft board and stick a Browning automatic against their temples.

THESE THOUGHTS are prompted by seeing Steven Spielberg's new movie, *Saving Private Ryan*. A preview showing in London last week was a considerable occasion. On Thursday afternoon, the forecourt of the Plaza cinema in Lower Regent Street was the trendiest arty hangout in town.

Film critics, novelists, style-mag smart-alecs and assorted media harlots hung around outside smoking like beagles, waiting for the 6.30 balloon to go up. Nick Hornby was there, and Gerald Kaufman, Tom Shone, Anne Billson, John Lyttle, Alexander Walker, Richard Williams... It was a nervy occasion. "You sure you're ready for this?" asked one. "See the *New Yorker* piece?" asked another and we all shivered.

Let me explain. The buzz on *Saving Private Ryan* has reached a deafening pitch. It's been called the most harrowing war film ever made, with all Spielberg's manipulative skill trained on the evocation of war-zone terror.

Partly due to Hendrik Hertzberg's piece on Spielberg in the current *New Yorker*, the film's

first reel is acquiring the status of a can-you-handle-it ordeal that will sort the men from the boys: 25 minutes of unrelenting horror, real-time verité carnage on Omaha Beach in the D-Day landings, with no cut-away shots or comforting perspectives, a tirade of total war made suddenly flesh - torn, drowned, bleeding and exploded flesh - from which you're not allowed to look away.

"I'm asking the audience to have a physical sensation," Spielberg had said, "so they can somewhat have the experience of what those guys went through." And that's what was coming our way, soon. "It's the Fear..." said Tony Quinn. We nodded solemnly and fell silent. Some lit cigarettes with shaking fingers. It was amazing that nobody vomited with apprehension, or started playing a harmonica. Two guys from a listings magazine came up. "Okay," they said, white with apprehension. "We're going in..."

I shouldn't pre-empt *Ryan* Glibe's review for this paper, so I'll just say the film is an overwhelming experience with a slightly fake after-taste. As the *New Yorker* points out, the technical credits mention 500 people, right down to the "Corpse and Animal Effects Designers" and they're used to bring every ounce of nasty verisimilitude

to the depiction of Armageddon. More than any film I've seen, it makes you stare blank terror - the terror of imminent and messy death - in the face, while the dignity of patriotic combat is reduced to a soldier retrieving his arm from the surrounding gore. The only thing that stops you feeling the cinema is the suspicion that Spielberg's battery of nasty tricks is a little formulaic: one blown-up head here, one blown-off leg there, one stuffing-the-entrails-back scene, two hurrying bodies, one dismembered pal.

Roger Corman, the doyen of exploitation movies, allegedly used to pore over a script and scribble "Poss. breast nudity here?" on every other page. It feels as if Spielberg wrote "Poss. radio operator with imploded face here?" in the margin of Robert Rodat's script. But it's a shattering experience all the same. Thus celluloid, if not conscience, doth make cowards of us all.

AT THE "Legends of Rock 'n' Roll" concert at Wembley on Wednesday, I saw an amazing sight - a legend trying to escape his legendariness. Three ancient US musicians performed the most classic works of the rock repertoire to an audience of 8,000 comfortably-off, bulging-waisted fans in leather jackets and bouncy skirts

(the ones dancing in the aisles turned out to be from Finland). Jerry Lee Lewis, in red shirt and slicked-back hair, belted through "Chantilly Lace" and "Whole Lotta Shakin'" without breaking sweat, presiding over his piano like a contemptuous puppeteer, hardly moving his arms, playing ferocious boogie-woogie swirls with the disdain of a master chef called upon to stir soup.

Following him, a vision of camp loveliness in blue pyjamas with diamanté accessories, a vast black wig like a crash-landed yeti and a hundredweight of pancake slap, announced, "Yes, Ah am the lovely Little Richard from Macon, Georgia." In case you thought it was some other, lesser, Little Richard, and got a score of hardcore lindy-hoppers on stage during "Lucille". Then the daddy of them all, Chuck Berry, was before us. Tall and devilishly handsome at 71, in yellow cowboy shirt, bolo tie and red guitar, he played the stuff your parents jived to - "Long Distance Information", "Give me Memphis Tennessee" and "Oh Carol" and "Sweet Little Sixteen" - and sounded just as cool as forty years ago.

But something was bothering Chuck. He seemed entranced by his piano player. He slowed things down to showcase the cascade of jazzy improvisations from the keyboard. He traded licks, then stopped

playing completely to stand by the piano man, nodding appreciatively and apparently asking, "Hey, how do you do that?"

He cursed the amplification - "I keep tryin' to turn this old noise-box down," he said at one point, indicating his guitar - and seemed to want to try a few parlour harmonies, like a musician jamming with a friend. The audience weren't keen. They whistled, they slow-handclapped, they yelled "Play the blues, Chuck", and (mortifyingly) "Bring back little Richard", and perforce Mr Berry gave them what they wanted - more 12-bar classics, like "Johnny B. Goode".

He wouldn't give up, though; soon he was at the piano again, marvelling at the interplay of strict bass rhythm and breezy treble riffs, longing to find a way in. After half a lifetime playing his back catalogue on automatic pilot, he was like a man desperate to do something new with notes and chords and wayward musical ideas. But the audience wouldn't let him. That's the trouble with being a rock 'n' roll legend - you're not allowed to go on thinking.

You should have seen the look on his face when he threw the crowd their final dose of nostalgia: "My Ding-a-Ling", his comic song about masturbation. I'm a musician, he seemed to be saying - while you are a crowd of wankers.

RIGHT OF REPLY

MICHAEL MEWSHAW



A noted writer on tennis says that sexual abuse on the women's tour is no laughing matter

REPORTING ON the Lawn Tennis Association Inter-County Cup, *The Independent* quotes Sally Jones, formerly a participant and now the non-playing captain of the Warwickshire women's team, who says that she's "busy patrolling the corridors of the Grand Hotel after 10 pm in battle-axe mode to discover... whether any of our giggly teenagers has decided to sneak off for a quiet tryst with some older married tennis coach".

I wonder what Ms Jones does if she finds one of her "promising juniors" in bed with an adult who's been paid to train, not have sex with, her. Does she call the police and have the man charged with statutory rape? Far from an idle question, this issue now confronts the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), which administers the international circuit. With more and more adolescents competing, there have been troubling numbers of cases of older male coaches who regard sex as part of the training programme.

The French Tennis Federation recently fired a 50-year-old married man caught sleeping with a 16-year-old. This past spring, amid widespread allegations that an ex-Wimbledon champion had been sexually abused by her coach from the age of 11, the WTA announced it would investigate.

Since then the WTA has refused to reveal anything about its findings and declines to explain why it hasn't turned the matter over to better equipped authorities - such as the police or therapists who have treated players traumatised by abuse on the tour. At the very least, it seems reasonable for the WTA to pass a code of conduct for coaches stipulating that unmarried girls shouldn't share hotel rooms with male coaches. Short of that, perhaps Ms Jones will sign on in "battle-axe mode" on a year-round, world-wide basis.

Digging up the roots of evil

EDWARD BALL is a poor white from America's Deep South, the son of an impoverished clergyman. A scholarship boy who moved to the North, he is by family origin an heir to the Balls of Charleston, slaughtering of Indians and owners of black slaves, and for centuries a power in the land of South Carolina. The Civil War and the abolition of slavery put an end to the family's wealth. Like so many plantation dynasties, the Balls have long gone with the wind, and so too have their extended families of slaves.

Young Ball, a journalist, decided to investigate the history of his family, and then to discover what had happened to the slaves. Since invoking *droit de seigneur* was not unusual in the rice fields of the South, he was to meet some of his distant black relations in the process. The resulting book is a kind of white-black *Roots*, Alec Haley's epic tale of a black man's enquiry into his ancestry.

Slaves in the Family is a comparable undertaking, although Ball had an initial advantage over Haley in that researching the history of a



MONDAY BOOK

SLAVES IN THE FAMILY
BY EDWARD BALL
Viking, £20

wealthy white family is relatively simple. The Balls left copious records of their business and social activities, though their misdeeds, their moments of panic, and their rice-field fumbblings are usually absent from the archives.

Tracing the families of former slaves, and delving into their memory banks, was more difficult. Advertisements, word of mouth and sheer accident all played their part in tracking down a rich collection of specimens to place under the author's microscope.

The resulting book is beautifully written and elegantly composed, with a wonderful sense of time and space. Out of an extraordinary ragbag of research, interviews, travel notes,

impressions and anecdotes, Ball has constructed a splendid detective-story narrative with an impressive range of characters. He leaves you wanting to know more, though maybe he wears his liberal heart too conspicuously on his sleeve.

One purpose of his book is to tease out the legacy of slavery on white and black America, and he often seems obsessed by the heritage of evil in his genes. He is correspondingly unhappy when people, particularly some of the blacks, seem content to let bygones be bygones.

Ellis Ball, the founder of the dynasty, sailed into the harbour at Charleston in 1699 to take up a small plantation he had inherited, worked by 25 slaves. A century and a half later, when the Civil War hit the town in 1865, Ball's family had more than a dozen plantations and owned nearly 4,000 slaves. Through the labour of their slaves and through intermarriage - notably with Henry Laurens, one of the wealthiest of the 18th century slaves - the Ball family plantations were transformed into gold mines. They produced the famous "Carolina Gold" which became Europe's premium grade rice.

Edward Ball skillfully draws the thread of his narrative through the long curves of the family's economic and political fortunes. He also locates an equivalent genealogy within the slave population, seeking out the progeny of Amy and Tom White from Angola and Priscilla from Sierra Leone. Then, and this is the real delight of the book, he weaves them together, linking a Ball nephew, John Laurens, who



Ball locates a genealogy among slaves as well as his own family

seeks to persuade the rebellious Americans in 1778 to recruit a black army, with Boston King, a slave who slips away from a Ball plantation in 1779 to join the British and ends up in the 1790s back in Sierra Leone.

Elsewhere, he couples the slave revolt in Charleston of 1748 - in which a Ball slave, Tom White, plays a leading role - with the rebellious Tom's most recent descendant, Sonya Fordham. Still living in Charleston, she was a revolutionary black activist in the 1960s. This is historical reconstruction at its most felicitous.

Throughout most of the book, the author's investigations are sustained by his moral intensity. Only in the final section does this become his Achilles' heel. He travels to Sierra Leone, in search of the descendants

of the ancestors of the Ball slaves and of those who sent them away into exile. In Africa, Ball does not move so easily as he does through the archives of South Carolina.

His last chapter reads like a travel article, as he realises that he cannot go where he hoped to go because of a civil war. Then he moves on to ridicule the African chiefs he eventually meets, in true Ugly American fashion, for not sharing his sense of moral outrage about slavery.

Ball crosses the white-black divide in America with the nimble feet of a dancer. When he wades across the Atlantic, he seems to arrive in Africa with his gumboots still on. Yet this is but a blemish on a most intriguing, imaginative and very readable book.

RICHARD GOTT

How to become a Freelance Writer

by NICK DAVIS

Freelance writing can be creative, fulfilling and a lot of fun, with excellent money to be made as well. What's more, anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or experience are required.

The market for writers is huge. In Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily, Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 8,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelancers. Then there are books, theatre, films, TV, radio...

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MONDAY POEM

AT THE AIRPORT
BY CH SISSON

Out of blue air
You descend like light
Child, not mine but me
Your heart in my mouth
But what seems similar
Across age, sex and size
Is no such matter

My look in your eyes
Brighter than in my own
My grief beside yours
Minute
And when I seem to burn
With a like flame I am
Cold ash beside you.

Our poems this week come from CH Sisson's 'Collected Poems' (Corconet Press, £12.95). This poem first appeared in 'The London Zoo' (1961)

Tiny Rowland

ROLAND T. ROWLAND, universally known as "Tiny", was one of the most extraordinary and charismatic business adventurers of the 20th century.

For over 30 years he controlled Lomro, a company which he built into an amazingly diverse empire, with interests ranging from platinum mining in South Africa to motor distributorships throughout Africa to a string of luxury hotels.

In particular he showed that it was possible to make considerable profits in many newly-independent African countries neglected by more orthodox businessmen as corrupt and unstable (which they generally were), and he even achieved the apparently impossible task of building up a large stake in mines in South Africa while retaining the support and affection of leaders of black Africa, including Nelson Mandela, who remembered him "as a long-standing friend in the struggle against apartheid". Nevertheless, in the mid-1970s his cavalier business habits led to the famous description by the then Prime Minister, Ted Heath, that Lomro was "the unacceptable face of capitalism".

But more extraordinary even than the empire he created and dominated was the personality of Tiny Rowland himself. On the only occasion we ever met (he was trying to stop the publication of a book of mine in which he featured) he reminded me of that most sinister, charming and glamorous of actors, George Sanders, another Continental with a rather artificial, exaggeratedly Anglo-Saxon manner. Rowland spoke and wrote English with stylistic precision and his clothes were immaculate - and utterly English. His personal life was appropriately larger than life. His fortune - mostly in Lomro shares - was over £150 million and he had homes in London, Buckinghamshire and Mexico as well as a yacht in the Mediterranean (though his work occupied his whole life even on holiday).

He drew a veil of secrecy over his private life - no photograph was ever published of him with Josie, his wife, and their son and three daughters. Josie was 20 years younger than Tiny and the daughter of a hard-up farmer friend of his in Rhodesia. Rowland became her godfather and paid for her education. In 1966 she had grown up and they were married.

Beneath the surface was a man who never forgave an enemy. As Richard Hall put it (*My Life with Tiny*, 1985): "Rowland sees life as a contest in which opponents may have to be kneed in the groin now and then". In the last 30 years he became famous for his feuds - notably with Mohamed al-Fayed, who wrested control of Harrods from him in an epic battle in the mid-1980s. He also had a strong devious and manipulative streak. His character was well summed up in a Department of Trade enquiry which concluded that he had "vision, negotiating ability, determination and personality in unusual measure with unbounded energy to apply his talents". But he was also a "dominating personality, an able negotiator with a record of success, and if he does not want to discuss a particular topic he has an infinite capacity to talk around the subject".

Tiny was born Roland Walter Fuhrop in 1917 in an interment camp in India. His mother, born Muriel Kautenhoven, came from a prosperous Dutch family which had been living in England for 30 years before she married Tiny's father, the Hamburg-born William Fuhrop, a prosperous and adventurous merchant, in 1906. They moved to India where Tiny's elder brother Raimund was born in 1915. Roland himself arrived two years later by which time the Fuhrops were interned - in reasonable comfort - at Belgum, a thousand miles from Calcutta - an

uncomfortable birth-place but one which ensured that he was British by birth.

After the war the Fuhrops moved to Hamburg, where Tiny was educated in the local primary school and then to a leading Gymnasium (high school). There he was enrolled - with no great enthusiasm - in the Hitler Youth for a year before his parents sent him to a rather nondescript boarding school, Churcher's College near Petersfield in Hampshire. When he left school he started work in the family merchant business. Unhappy with the Hitler regime, his parents soon returned to Britain, though his brother Raimund stayed in Germany and enlisted in the Wehrmacht.

On the outbreak of the Second World War Fuhrop changed his name. But, in Richard Hall's words his "way of anglicising himself was oddly half-hearted - almost flippant: he took the initial of his second name, and dropped it into the middle of his first name, emerging as Roland T. Rowland (he had first been called Tiny by his Indian nurse and the nickname stuck although he grew to an impressive 6ft 2in).

Although Rowland volunteered for the British army, his family background - and the fact that his brother

*'vision,
negotiating ability,
determination and
personality in
unusual measure
with unbounded
energy to apply his
talents'*

was fighting for the enemy - ensured that he was allowed only to become a medical orderly. When his parents, like all other German-born immigrants, were interned in the Isle of Man, Tiny went absent without leave to see them, was arrested and spent nearly a month in gaol. ("Twenty seven days," he said later, "it seemed like 370").

In early 1942 he was discharged as "more trouble to the British Army than he was worth" in Richard Hall's words) and was promptly detained in a camp in the Isle of Man which otherwise housed only Fascist sympathisers. He was released in 1944 and given work for a short time as a porter at Euston Station - the origin of the legend that he would station himself opposite the first-class carriages in order to receive the best tips. Nevertheless, every few weeks he returned to see his parents, still in the camp where his mother died of cancer at the end of the war.

Not surprisingly he escaped from Britain in 1948 and emigrated to Gatooma, a small town in what was then Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) where he had already bought a farm. He soon became a local legend, buying a large house where he installed the wife of his then partner.

His early ventures foreshadowed the range of businesses later included in Lomro. He developed a local gold mine, Kanyemba, which he transformed into a public company (it went under four years later leaving a lasting trail of bitterness). With a Hungarian-born partner he went into the business of importing cars (he had always loved and driven Mercedes-Benzes). More imaginatively he promoted the ambitious idea of an oil pipeline to the Mozambique port of Beira, thus lessening Rhodesia's dependence on the long haul through South Africa.

Some of his business ventures

had involved the important mining house of Rio Tinto, which led to the acquisition of a reputable but run-down company, the London and Rhodesian Land Company, which had been established in 1909. Rowland bought the firm and brought in the Hon Angus Ogilvy, an adventurous Old Etonian, who shortly afterwards married the Queen's cousin, Princess Alexandra of Kent.

The 1960s were magic years for Rowland and Lomro as he swept through Africa in his private jet, charming the region's rulers (including Colonel Gaddafi) and buying up innumerable businesses through his connections with local leaders. It helped that he had a shrewd notion of their countries' major economic interests as well as a flair for reading the local political situation (for instance he was a stalwart backer of the Nigerian government when Biafra declared its independence). By the end of the decade Ian Smith's defection from the Commonwealth involved a move back to the England he had sworn he had left for ever.

His biggest coup was the acquisition of the enormous Ashanti gold mine in Ghana thanks largely to the help of Duncan Sandys, a former Conservative cabinet minister who became chairman of Lomro and whose support was of crucial importance in the early 1970s (though it was Sandys' insistence on being paid a handsome retainer in a tax haven, the Cayman Islands, which brought most opprobrium on to Lomro).

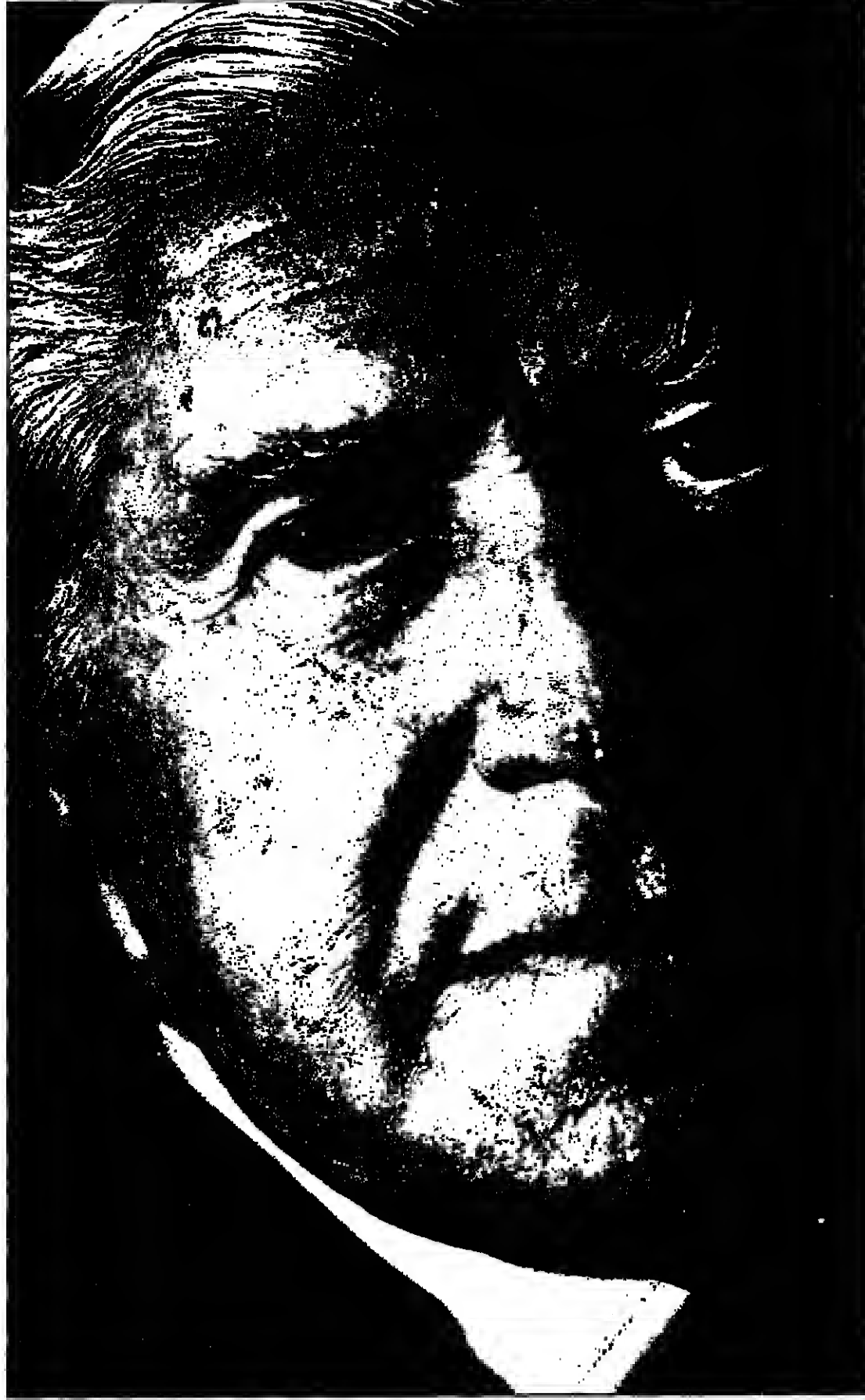
Rowland had always treated Lomro as his personal fiefdom, though he was interested only in wheeling and dealing and not in managing its innumerable subsidiaries. In 1972 he acquired - for an inflated price - the rights to license a revolutionary rotary engine invented by the German Felix Wankel. In doing so he had alienated Lomro's bankers S.G. Warburg, and added an unnecessary burden of debt. So in early 1972 he was obliged to bring a number of prominent non-executive directors on to the Lomro Board. These included Nicholas Elliott, formerly a leading figure in MI5, and Sir Basil Smallpeice, a former chairman of Cunard. In early 1973 some of them - including Sir Edward Spears, a former chairman of Ashanti, and Gerald Percy, Rowland's former partner in Rhodesia - revolted, although some nifty boardroom footwork by Sandys prevented the immediate ousting of Tiny Rowland.

His strength emerged at a subsequent shareholders' meeting. In the absence of institutional shareholders - put off by Rowland's manner and his concentration on Africa - this was dominated by small investors totally loyal to Tiny Rowland who had prospered as the company grew. In the subsequent bloodbath the dissidents, the "Straight Eight" as they were named after a then-popular brand of beer, all left, as did Angus Ogilvy who had greatly embarrassed the Royal family through his connection with so controversial a company (for that reason Ogilvy has never received any title).

The battle left a permanent scar, not only in the shape of Heath's observation, but also a Department of Trade Report on the affair which concluded that "we believe that Mr Rowland has a great deal to offer Lomro and its shareholders, but his achievements will be all the greater if he will allow his enthusiasms to operate within the ordinary processes of company management".

Fat chance: within a couple of years the totally unreformed Rowland had found a new source of support and finance from the Kuwaitis and had also brought on to the Lomro board an Egyptian wheeler-dealer with Arab connections, one Mohamed al-Fayed.

Tiny Rowland had always believed that newspapers were enormously



important - if only because they greatly impressed politicians - and owned a number in Southern Africa. In 1981 he swooped on the *Observer* which six years earlier had been bought from David Astor by an American oil tycoon, Robert Anderson.

More serious from a business point of view was his involvement with the stores group House of Fraser, which owned Harrods, for Rowland a symbol of the Establishment Britain which had snubbed him so badly in the past - dating from his parents' internment and his mother's death, which he blamed on the conditions of internment - right through to the Department of Trade report. In 1978 he acquired a 28.9 per cent stake in the group as part of a vague plan to merge it with the American stores group Carter Hawley Hale and, possibly, with Woolworths, but three years later his attempt to take it over entirely was blocked, on rather flimsy grounds, by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In 1984 he sold his shares to Mohamed al-Fayed, who, he assumed, did not have the funds to buy the rest.

As everyone knows Fayed double-crossed Tiny and managed to conjure up the funds to buy up the remaining shares without any objections from the government, a

fact which Rowland attributed to Fayed's presumed financing of the Tory government ("If I had donated £100,000 to the Conservatives the result might have been different. We might have got Fraser and Lomro would have gone on to be one of the highest companies in Britain"). It is possible that he was - unsuccessfully - encouraged to contribute to the Tories by Lomro's then chairman, Sir Edward du Cann, an early supporter of Margaret Thatcher's.

The purchase led to a splendid and virulent campaign against Fayed which cost Lomro's shareholders around £25 million - and the *Observer* much of its reputation as a serious newspaper through the way the editor, Donald Treford, allowed his paper to be used as an anti-Fayed weapon, most obviously when Rowland obtained a copy of an unfavourable DTI report on Fayed which was printed as a special mid-week edition of the paper.

As always Rowland's own opinion

of the man he used to call "Tootsie" was worth quoting - and agreed fundamentally with the facts: "No one has actually said how it is possible for a man to arrive from nowhere, or from the back of a lorry carrying Coca-Cola bottles in Egypt to a position where he has castles in Scotland, that property in Knightsbridge,

the Paris Ritz and the Windsors' home in Paris."

For years Rowland's repeated blasts at Fayed - "the hero from Zero" - provided entertainment for journalists and newspaper readers alike. The Fayed's accused Tiny Rowland of breaking a pledge not to interfere in the editorial content of the *Observer* while he in turn accused the Fayed's of not using their own money in buying Harrods.

Rowland was always a dangerous enemy. Some years earlier Lomro had been accused in yet another Department of Trade report of sanctions-busting through its ownership of a Rhodesian copper mine. In response Rowland compiled a dossier in 1978 on sanction-breaking by other British companies, in particular by Shell and BP which had used the pipeline constructed by Lomro 20 years earlier. This prompted a government inquiry implicated ministers and called into question the credibility of the government. It also exposed the worthlessness of the expensive naval "blockade" of oil to Rhodesia, which had been imported in quantities too large for the country's storage facilities.

In 1993 Tiny Rowland and Mohamed al-Fayed appeared to "kiss and make up" in a well-publicised meeting in Harrods Food Halls, a

meeting held under a huge preserved shark which Fayed had already christened "Tiny". They then issued a joint statement that: "There comes a time when conflicting parties must recognise that there is nothing to be gained by prolonging a costly battle, however right both sides may have felt." Inevitably, however, the truce was temporary. It was shattered, among other farcical episodes, by allegations, later proved to be true, that Rowland's safe deposit box at Harrods had been broken into.

In the late 1980s Tiny Rowland became too obsessed by his feud to take good care of his business - although in 1988 he did manage to see off a raid by the Australian tycoon Alan Bond, who had bought a 21 per cent holding in Lomro in a bid to take over the company. Bond went broke before he could do any serious damage. Rowland did not help his already-battered reputation when he sold a considerable minority stake in his Empress Hotels company to the Libyan government, then under a major international cloud. But he seemed untouchable.

In the end Tiny Rowland's downfall came from a major piece of character misreading when he brought on to the board of Lomro one Dieter Bock, a mysterious German wheeler-dealer. At first Rowland treated him like a son - "think of us as indivisible," he said at the time - but Bock soon revealed that his plans for Lomro were totally contrary to those of Rowland, always an empire-builder. Lomro's profits had been badly hit by the slump of the early 1990s, and by increasingly turbulent conditions in Africa where Rowland had made a number of major misjudgments - including backing Joshua Nkomo against Robert Mugabe in Rhodesia. The group was therefore worth far more dead than alive, its parts worth far more if merged, sold separately (or floated on the stock market) than as a group, especially as the institutional shareholders who had always been leery of Rowland's cavalier management style continued to fight shy of the group.

At the start of their relationship Bock and Rowland shared the job of chief executive for a while, but Bock soon forced four long-standing supporters of Rowland off the board. After more rows Bock was backed by the chairman, a former ambassador Sir John Leahy, "a man I found in the foreign office 22 years ago" Rowland said of someone who became yet another in the long line of the friend-turned-traitor ("my opinion of his is unprintable," he said later).

Bock and Leahy succeeded in kicking Tiny upstairs to the powerless job of president, albeit with a handsome pay-off - his pay in the year before his removal had been a generous £2.7 million. Since then the group has been dismantled to the considerable profit of everyone including Rowland who had retained a 7 per cent stake in his group.

Forced retirement did not stop the then 76-year-old Tiny Rowland from operating in his habitual style. He claimed that he would be starting a new international trading group - and was alleged to be behind unfavourable newspaper accounts of some of Bock's alleged property transactions.

But he remained an outsider to the last. He had supported fallen tycoons like Sir Freddie Laker and Jim Slater in their darkest hours and had even stood bail for Ernest Saunders. The British Establishment might have thwarted many of his ambitions, but he was always capable of cocking a snook at it.

Nicholas Faith

Roland Walter Fuhrop (Tiny Rowland), businessman: born Belgum, India 17 November 1917; married 1968 (one son, three daughters); died London 24 July 1998.

R. Tudur Jones

AMONG THE intelligentsia of Wales the name of R. Tudur Jones belongs to the most distinguished Church historian and theologian of the 20th century.

He was a prolific writer on both religious and political subjects, whose work is characterised by meticulous, wide-ranging scholarship, immense intellectual gifts, forthright judgements and, particularly in the case of his writing in Welsh, a profound sense of the beauty of language.

His contributions to the religious and literary life of Wales were many and varied, ranging from his histories of the Welsh Independents to his column in *Y Cymro*, one of the Welsh weekly newspapers, written over a period of 20 years or more.

Robert Tudur Jones was born at Llanystumdwy, Caernarfonshire, the boyhood home of David Lloyd George, and brought up in the seaside town of Rhyl in Flintshire, where his father was employed as a railway-worker and his mother



kept lodgers who provided the boy with an insight into human personality and a fund of anecdote on which he never tired of drawing. He was educated at the University College of North Wales, Bangor, at Mansfield and St Catherine's Colleges, Oxford, and at the University of Strasbourg, and was a

Congregational minister at Aberystwyth before his appointment in 1950 as Professor of Church History and later Principal of Bala-Bangor Theological College, where he remained until it was merged with the Memorial College at Aberystwyth in 1988.

His DPhil thesis at Oxford was on the Welsh Puritan Vavasor Powell, one of those whose mission was the evangelising of Wales under the Act for the Propagation of the Gospel in Wales of 1650. This set Jones on his life's work, which was the study and exegesis of that Radical Nonconformity which he was such a notable exemplar.

Apart from myriad articles in learned and denominational journals, his first major book was *Congregationalism in England 1662-1962* (1963), which established him as a Church historian. It was followed by the magisterial *Hanes Anabaptism ym Cymru* (1966), a history of Independency in Wales, one of the major strands of the Welsh religious

tradition and still a potent force in contemporary Wales. It is required reading not only for the student of theological thought in Wales but for anyone with an interest in the history and society of post-Reformation Wales. He returned to this subject in *Yr Undeb: Hanes Undeb yr Anabaptism ym Cymru 1873-1972* (1975), a history of the Union of Welsh Independents.

His sympathy with the radical theology of the Independents helped R. Tudur Jones to embrace the political philosophy and practice of Plaid Cymru. He stood twice as the party's candidate at general elections in Anglesey, in 1959 and 1964, and was for a while editor of one of its newspapers, *Y Ddraig Goch*. His exploration of Nationalism in modern Europe, *The Desire of Nations* (1974), was an influential book placing the principles of Plaid Cymru in a wider context and with reference to world events.

He was also a journalist with a light touch in both Welsh and English. Indeed in a recent television in-

terview, he told with some glee how the editor of a popular London daily newspaper, having spotted his articles in the *Liverpool Daily Post*, tried to cajole him into giving up his academic career in favour of a job as its Welsh columnist, which would have commanded a salary three times greater than what he was earning at the Theological College. But he turned the offer down, preferring to follow his own course as unpaid contributor to his church's journal *Y Tyst* and the leading monthly *Barn*.

A selection of his journalism, in which he gave full rein to his impish humour and imperious scorn for those of whom he was disapproved, together with a number of his essays on cultural and historical themes, is to be found in the books *Darganfod Harmon* (1982) and *Ffydd yn y Ffau* (1993). One of his finest essays, in which he described how he'd thought he sensed the ghostly presence, in an Anglesey church at the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, of a posse of the King's Com-

missioners come to make an inventory of a nearby religious house, demonstrates a startling sensitivity to what such a visitation meant to those caught up by it. The essay appears, in English translation, in my recently published anthology of Welsh prose, *Illuminations*. A full bibliography of R. Tudur Jones's writings is included in the *Festschrift*, *Y Gair a'r Genedl*, which was published in his honour in 1986, the year in which he was awarded the degree of D Litt by the University of Wales.

The Protestantism and Puritanism of R. Tudur Jones was Evangelical in its precepts and application. He was a Calvinist and in the great schism that took place in the 19th century between the orthodox Evangelical wing and the new Liberalism coming in from Germany, a controversy which still animates the religious life of Wales, he was firmly entrenched on the side of the fundamentalists. He wrote extensively on Abraham Kuyper, the theologian who became Prime Min-

ister of the Netherlands in 1900, and was generally influenced by Karl Barth and the school of Barthians associated with Princeton University.

His Evangelicism is to be seen at its most learned in the two volumes, *Ffydd ac Argyfwng Cenedl* (1981-82), a history of religion in Victorian Wales, and at its most trenchant in *Grym y Gair a Ffiam y Ffydd*, a selection of his essays and lectures on theological subjects, which is to appear next week in time for the National Eisteddfod at which R. Tudur Jones was a regular visitor.

Meic Stephens

Robert Tudur Jones, theologian and Church historian: born Llanystumdwy, Caernarfonshire 28 June 1921; independent minister at Aberystwyth 1948-50; Professor of Church History, Bala-Bangor Theological College 1950-66; Principal 1966-88; married 1948 Gwenllian Edwards (two sons, two daughters and one son deceased); died Bangor, Gwynedd 23 July 1998.

Harold Disney

HAROLD DISNEY, a pioneer of the nuclear industry, was one of the original group of 12 that Christopher (later Lord) Hinton assembled on 4 February 1945 in a disused wartime factory at Risley near Manchester. He was to work there for nearly 30 years - 11 of these for Hinton.

Disney was born in 1907 at Rudington in Nottinghamshire, where his parents kept a small shop. On leaving school he served an apprenticeship with a firm of railway wagon builders, then worked for four years in the drawing offices of International Combustion, Derby, whilst studying in evening classes at University College, Nottingham. In 1935 he went to ICI as a draughtsman in the Alkali Division at Northwich, where Hinton was chief engineer.

Then came the Second World War. In 1940, severe ammunition shortages threatened a scandal comparable to that in the First World War. A huge Filling Factories Organisation (FFO), with 15 factories and a workforce of 100,000, provided bombs and shells for the Services but was failing badly. ICI loaned Hinton to the Ministry of Supply and he took with him three of his "more adventurous" staff - W.L. (later Sir Leonard) Owen, Charles Turner and Harold Disney. Hinton was brilliant at selecting men and then developing their potential so as to achieve results far beyond all expectations.

The three worked, briefly, in a new cordite factory and then moved to the Engineering Department of Filling Factories Organisation's London headquarters. With their support, Hinton coped with chaotic conditions and some obstructions and succeeded in averting the crisis. Disney's crucial contribution was expediting production by chasing deliveries - often long overdue - of machinery and equipment. Hinton described him as totally loyal and dependable and "almost impossible to rattle". Indeed, all three men had been indispensable to him.

For three years Hinton, Owen and Disney happily shared a flat in Westminster. Disney, first home from work, usually cooked supper. Their comradeship meant much to the highly strung and over-burdened Chief. Then came V1 and V2 attacks on London. When Owen's office was badly damaged, they all joined in clearing up while Disney's admirable secretary supplied tea, coffee and sandwiches all day. An elegant and sophisticated Londoner, of somewhat liberal morals, she was a contrast to her boss who retained the naive simplicity of his respectable small-town upbringing.

In November 1945 Hinton was asked to head a secret industrial organisation which the Government was setting up as part of an atomic energy programme. Its initial purpose was atomic bombs. Hinton accepted, on condition that he had full responsibility for design, construction and operation of the factories and would have charge of industrial applications if later they were practicable. The new factories, he decided, should be in north-west England, already an area of heavy engineering and chemical manufacturing. Looking round for a redundant wartime factory as headquarters, he chose Risley.

Owen, Disney and Turner joined him. They liked working with him and did not want to return to ICI, because their old firm would only offer them junior posts - as draughtsmen in the case of Disney and Turner. So they found themselves back at Risley, now as civil servants, to work in uncharted territory. Only one person there knew anything about atomic energy - Dennis Gills, an ICI engineer just back from working at the atomic laboratory in Montreal as a reactor designer. He was on loan to Hinton for a year. At that first meeting, they all listened to him in amazement, with their heads "buzzing", as Disney said.

The production division had to create, and run, a complex of novel plants to produce fissile material - plutonium and enriched uranium - starting from uranium ores.

Sites were found and they began work first on a factory to process uranium and manufacture fuel elements (Springfields); next were plutonium production reactors and associated chemical plant (Windscale); last came an isotope separation plant (Capenhurst) to enrich uranium by gaseous diffusion. For a start, they had to make natural uranium fuel, first for PETO, an experimental reactor they were to construct at Harwell to new atomic laboratory near Oxford, and then for a big production reactor.

The task was described at the time as "a large industrial enterprise of a quite revolutionary character". It became even more formidable when the United States suddenly ended wartime co-operation in the summer of 1946; no American technical assistance would be forthcoming.

But the independent project, despite endless problems and some cliff-hanging crises, succeeded in building the factories and laboratories, producing the fissile material, and making and testing the first A bomb by the target date, 1952. Disney played a big part in that success. While his colleagues Turner and Kendall were responsible for



chemical plant and reactors, Disney - in charge of planning and supplies - was involved in all the plants and his meticulous organisation, programming, budgetary control and progress chasing ensured that timetables were met and cost overruns avoided.

In 1950 he was given responsibility for the gaseous diffusion plant, which came into operation in early 1953. This very difficult project demonstrated both his well-honed management skills and a capacity for close co-operation with some outstanding research scientists.

Disney, like many colleagues, was steeped in Hinton's engineering philosophy and methodology, a legacy he could draw on through all his successful nuclear career. When the project was transferred to the new UK Atomic Energy Authority in 1954 Disney became Assistant Director of Defence Projects in the Industrial Group, and in 1955 was given charge of construction of the Chapelcross Works in Dumfriesshire with its four dual-purpose reactors to produce plutonium and generate electricity.

In 1958 he became Director of Engineering. In later years various reorganisations divided and redivided the industrial group and his appointments varied accordingly. He was made managing Director of the Engineering Group in 1962 and later Manager of the Engineering Division of the Reactor Group, the position he held when he retired in 1972. He was President of the Nuclear Engineering Society from 1962 to 1972.

Lorna Arnold

Harold Vernon Disney, engineer: born Rudington, Nottinghamshire 2 July 1907; Assistant Director, Defence Projects, Industrial Group, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority 1954-58, Director of Engineering, Industrial Group 1958-62, Managing Director, Engineering Group, Risley 1962-69, Manager, Engineering Division, Reactor Group 1969-72; CBE 1956; married 1936 Lucy Quinton (two daughters); died 5 May 1998.

MATHEMATICAL NOTES

KEITH DEVLIN

Geometric laws of the jungle

HOW DOES the leopard get its spots? Or the zebra its stripes? And how do we explain that peculiar feature of animal coat patterns that, while the animal kingdom contains many creatures having a spotted body and a striped tail, there are no animals with a striped body and a spotted tail?

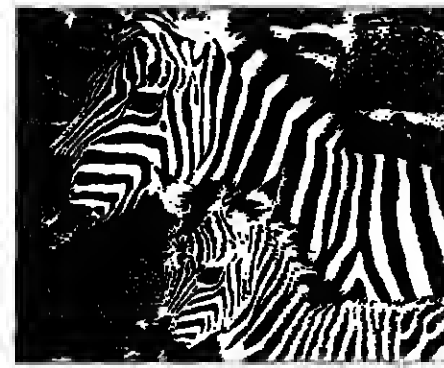
The evolutionary advantage of particular coat patterns is to provide camouflage. But what is the mechanism that produces the coat pattern for a particular species? Skin coloration is caused by a chemical called melanin, so pattern reflects concentrations of melanin in the skin, but what causes the pattern of those concentrations?

Perhaps the animal's DNA encodes precise instructions that tell the growing embryo how to distribute the melanin throughout the skin. In the 1950s, the British computer pioneer and wartime code breaker Alan Turing proposed an alternative mechanism: that the possible patterns in a coat are restricted by geometrical rules. In that case, all the DNA does is determine which particular geometrical pattern to adopt.

An obvious analogy is if a sculptor started out to construct a regular polyhedron from stone. No matter how hard he tried, he could only produce one of five different shapes. The ancient Greek mathematician Euclid proved that there are only five regular polyhedra. Of course, polyhedra are geometric objects, so it's no great surprise to learn that there are mathematical rules that restrict them.

It's more surprising to learn that there are mathematical rules that restrict wallpaper patterns. Mathematicians have proved that there are only 17 different ways that a wallpaper pattern can repeat itself. Designers can add all kinds of embellishments to make it look as though there are more differences. But at heart, there are just the 17. What about animal coat patterns?

The mathematician James Murray wrote a computer program to simulate the formation of coat patterns on a growing embryo, following Turing's ideas. He assumed that the melanin distribution causing skin coloration was the result of a battle for territory between two or more different chemicals in the skin. Some chemicals caused melanin coloration, others inhibited its formation and were initially distributed in the skin in a random fashion. The role



Animals' coat patterns develop in embryo

for the DNA was to tell the chemicals when to start the battle and when to stop. Murray's assumption was that the laws that govern chemical reactions and dispersal through the skin would lead to geometric rules that determine the final skin pattern.

When Murray ran his program he found that simply by varying the size and shape of the skin area, he obtained all the coat patterns you see in nature. Very small or very large areas gave no pattern. Medium-sized, vaguely rectangular areas gave spots. Long thin areas gave stripes perpendicular to the length of the area. Finer variations in skin dimension gave rise to the different kinds of spots and stripes we see in nature.

Since the skin coloration takes place during early development, it's the shape and size of the creature at that time that counts, not its final shape and size. For example, the embryonic zebra is long and thin, like a pencil, which explains its stripes. The leopard embryo, on the other hand, is round and chubby, so it gets spots - except for its tail, which becomes striped. Here Murray was also able to explain why you find spotted bodies with striped tails but not the other way round. Many embryos have chubby bodies and long thin tails, but you don't find long thin bodies with chubby tails.

If Murray's explanation is correct the coat patterns of animals are determined not by biology but by geometry. What better antidote to a dislike of geometry as being "cold and impersonal" than to find it can apply to warm, furry, cuddly animals.

Keith Devlin is the author of 'Life by the Numbers' (Wiley, £19.99)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

TEBBLE: Norman, Director of the Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh 1971-1984, died peacefully in the Edington Hospital, North Berwick on 23 July. Beloved husband of Mary, dear father of Kim, Nicola and Paul, fond, proud and adored grandfather of Jesse, Levi, Sean and Ruyoko who will remember his strong enfolding love and sense of fun. No funeral service at his request. Cremation private, no flowers please.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend the evening performance of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, London SW5. The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, visits the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) at Robertson Barracks, Swanton, Norfolk.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (obituary notices, funeral notices, marriages, marriages, marriages, marriages) which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

MARRIAGES

Mr P. W. Meech and Miss S. C. Coates
The marriage took place on Saturday 25 July 1998, at St Michael and All Angels, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, between Mr Philip Meech and Miss Sophie Coates.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Michael Ball, singer, 38; Mr Allan Border, cricketer, 43; Lord Cawley, former barrister, 85; Mr Peter Coker, artist, 72; Group Capt John Cunningham, former Executive Director, British Aerospace, 81; Ms Roseanna Cunningham MP, 47; Miss Anna Dawson, actress and comedienne, 61; Mr Christopher Dean, skater, 40; Sir Ronald Dearing, former chairman of the Post Office, 68; Miss Jo Durie, tennis player, 38; Miss Bobbie Gentry, singer, 56; Dame Mary Green, former headmistress, Kidbrooke School, 85; Mr Jack Higgins (Harry Patterson), novelist, 69; Lord Jenkins of Putney, former government minister, 90; Mr Ian Lewy, ambassador to Bahrain, 55; Professor James McGee, professor of morbid anatomy, Oxford, 59; Sir James Munn, former chairman, Training Commission, 78; Mr Ernie Ross MP, 56; Baroness Williams of Crosby, former president, Social Democratic Party, 68.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Elizabeth Talbot, Countess of Shrewsbury (Bess of Hardwicke), builder of country mansions, 1518; Jean Bernoulli, mathematician, 1667; Mauro Giuliani, composer, 1781; André Georges Louis Onsow, composer, 1784; Sir George Biddell Airy, Astronomer Royal, 1801; Alexandre Dumas fils, playwright, 1824; Giosuè Carducci, poet, 1835;

Vladimir de Pachmann, pianist, 1848; Sir Ernest Alfred Thompson Wallis Budge, orientalist and museum curator, 1857; Enrique Granados, pianist and composer, 1867; Ernst von Dohnanyi, composer, 1877; Joseph Hilaire Pierre Belloc, poet and writer, 1870; Anton Dolin (Patrick Healey-Kay), dancer and choreographer, 1904.

Deaths: St Joseph of Arimathea, 82; Henri de La Tour d'Auvergne, Vicomte de Turenne, Marshal-General of France, 1675; John Graham of Claverhouse, first Viscount Dundee, soldier, killed 1688; Pierre-Louis Moreau de Maupertuis, astronomer and mathematician, 1759; Gilbert Charles Stuart, painter, 1838; Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov, poet and novelist, 1841; John Dalton, physicist and chemist, 1844; Ferruccio Benvenuto Busoni, pianist and composer, 1924; Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie, Egyptologist, 1942; Gertrude Stein, novelist and poet, 1946; Edward Godfrey Richard Aldington, novelist and biographer, 1962; Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, Portuguese prime minister and dictator, 1970; Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Shah of Iran, 1980; James Mason, actor, 1984; Sir Osbert Lancaster, artist and writer, 1986.

On this day: Albert I, son of Rudolf of Habsburg, was crowned Holy Roman Emperor, 1298; Cromwell defeated the Royalists at the Battle of Gainsborough, 1645; at the Battle of Killcrankie, Viscount Dundee (Claverhouse) for the Highlanders, defeated the Whig general Mackay, 1689; the Bank of England was granted a 12 year charter by Act of Parliament, 1694; revolution broke out in Paris, opposing the laws of Charles X, 1830; Adelaide, South Australia, was founded, 1836; Chartist riots broke out in Birmingham and other towns, 1839; the

Atlantic telegraph cable, laid by the Great Eastern, was completed, 1866; Captain Charles Fryatt, British seaman, was executed by the Germans for attempting to use his ship, the SS *Brussels*, to ram a German submarine, 1916; a radio compass was used for the first time to direct navigation of aircraft, 1920; insulin was isolated in Canada by Sir Frederick Banting and Charles Best at the University of Toronto, 1921; in Paris, Paul Gorgulov, assassin of President Doumer, was condemned to death, 1932; the German army entered the Ukraine, 1941; the Comet - first jet-propelled airliner - flew for the first time, 1949; the armistice between North Korea and the United Nations forces was signed, 1953; Austria once more became independent, 1955; the St James's Theatre, London, closed, 1957; in the US, a Judiciary Committee voted to impeach President Nixon, 1974.

Today is the Feast Day of St Aurelia, Natalia and their Companions, St Pantaleon, The Martyrs of Salsete, The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus and St Theobald of Marly.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev John Bloomfield, Team Vicar, Littlehampton and Wick (Chichester); to be Vicar, Humstanton St Edmund and Ringstead St Andrew (Norwich).
The Rev William Chaffin, Vice Principal, Wyldcliffe Hall, Oxford; to be Vicar, Bitterne Holy Saviour (Winchester).
The Rev David Clark, Team Rector, Oakley (Leicester); to be Curate (to be known as Associate Priest), Leicester St James the Greater (same diocese).
The Rev Bob Cooper, Chaplain and Teacher, Chigwell School (Chesham); to be Vicar, Lightcliffe St Matthew (Wakefield).
The Rev Andrew Couch, Vicar, St Ives, and Priest-in-Charge, Halesdown (Truro); to be also Rural Dean of Penwith (same diocese).
The Rev Jill Edwards, Assistant Curate, Gray, Thurrock (Chelmsford); to be Team Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev Christopher Epps, Assistant Curate, Clevedon St John the Evangelist (Bath & Wells); to be Rector, St John with Millbrook (Truro).
The Rev Stephen Goodwin, Team Vicar, with responsibility for Lord St Mark's House, and NSM, Leek and Macclesfield Team (Leeds).
The Rev Susan Goodwin, NSM, Headley All Saints (Hull); to be Priest-in-Charge, Welby Rocks (Leeds).
The Rev Jennifer Hill, NSM Curate, Rutland St Mary the Virgin and Mission (Leicester); to be Curate, Glen Parva and South Wigston (same diocese).
The Rev Brian McCullum, Rector, St Martin w East and West Lane (Truro); to be also Rural Dean of West Wiltshire (same diocese).
The Rev Bobby Magill, Assistant Curate, West Moor (Salisbury); to be Priest-in-Charge, Filperton with Widdon and Slaverston with Filperton Marsh (same diocese).
The Rev Robert Orwin, Assistant Curate, Leigh Park St Francis and St Clare (Portsmouth); to be Curate-in-Charge, Ransford St John the Divine (Chesham).
The Rev Emma Perry, Priest-in-Charge, Willoughby Holy Trinity (Sheffield); to be also Vocational Adviser (same diocese).
The Rev Augustus Reed, Curate, Hinkley Assumption of St Mary the Virgin, St Francis and St Paul (Leicester); to be Curate (Team Vicar designate), The Sherry Group (same diocese).
The Rev Alan Sowerbutts, Priest-in-Charge, Brindle St James (Blackburn); to be Vicar, Head St John with Simon-St Peter (same diocese).
The Rev Christopher Swift, Chaplain, Welhouse NHS Trust (St Albans); to be Chaplain, Deversbury Health Care NHS Trust (Walsfield).
The Rev Graham Whitcroft, Vicar, Lep- ton Airfield with Fynton (Walsfield); to be Priest-in-Charge, Caversham All Saints, and Bishop's Adviser for Farming Communities (same diocese).
The Rev David Williams, Priest-in-Charge, Backford St Andrew (Chesham); to be also Priest-in-Charge, Sutton with Shopton (same diocese).
The Rev Owen Williams, Team Vicar, Bruton and District (Bath & Wells); to be Priest-in-Charge, Kirby Fleetham with Langton-on-Swale and Scruton (Ripon).

RESIGNATIONS AND RETIREMENTS
The Rev John Stender-Cook, Priest-in-Charge, Halesdown (Truro) to retire 30 June.
The Rev June Kellam, Chaplain, Central University Hospitals (Sheffield); to retire 12 July.
The Rev John Lowe, Vicar, Rockwood-vale (Wakefield); to retire 30 November.
The Rev Gerald Satterly, Rector, Inceston, and Vicar, Westgate St Peter (Exeter); to retire 1 September.

APPOINTMENTS

Mrs Elspeth Clarkson, Mr Peter Field, The Viscount Gage and Mr Michael Ann, to be Deputy Lieutenants of the County of East Sussex.
Miss Diane Catherine Redgrave, to be a District Judge of the Principal Registry of the Family Division.

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*:

Vicarious liability

Trotman v North Yorkshire County Council: CA (Gutter-Sloss, Thorpe, Chadwick LJ) 14 July 1998.

A COUNTY council was not vicariously liable for indecent assaults committed on a boy during a school trip abroad by a deputy head teacher, employed by the council, since acts of sexual misconduct were outside the scope of his employment. The fact that the employment gave the employee an opportunity to carry out sexual assaults was far removed from an unauthorised mode of carrying out a teacher's duties on behalf of his employer. It was, rather, a negation of the duty of the council to look after children for whom it was responsible.

Nigel Baker QC, Anesh Pema (Hammond Suddards, Leeds) for the appellant; Simon Hawksworth QC, Mark Grenyer (Jacksons, Middlesbrough) for the respondent.

Forfeiture

Government of USA v Mootgomery & anor: CA (Stuart-Smith, Swinton Thomas, Aldous LJ) 8 July 1998.

WHERE AN original forfeiture order, made following proceedings in a US district court, remained in force because it was not satisfied by any payment made since shares that were required to be forfeited had not been so forfeited, the use of United States' interests rates to calculate the present value of those shares did not disqualify any order made as a result of that calculation.

CASE SUMMARIES

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from being an external confiscation order. Restraint orders could, therefore, be made in the UK pursuant to the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act (Designated Countries and Territories) Order 1991 to enforce the US order.

Andrew Mitchell QC, Kennedy Talbot (CPS, Ludgate Hill) for the appellant; Alan Jones QC, James Lewis (Goldsmiths) for the respondents.

VAT

Comms of Customs and Excise v Pilgrimage Language Courses Ltd: QBD (Richards J) 2 June 1998.

CATERING and accommodation provided by a residential English language school were supplies separate from the exempt supplies of teaching and were subject to VAT.

Melanie Hall (Solicitor, C & E) for the Crown; Peridra Carrill-Thompson (Simon Muirhead & Burton) for the taxpayer.

Comms of Customs & Excise v Sinclair Collis Ltd: QBD (Lightman J) 9 July 1998.

PERMISSION to install cigarette machines in pubs and hotels in return for a share of the profits constituted the grant of a licence to occupy land within Sch 9, Group 1, item 1 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994, and was therefore exempt from VAT.

Rupert Anderson (Solicitor, C & E) for the Crown; Hugh McKay (Conrad Tate, Imperial Tobacco) for the taxpayer.

Damages

Wells v Wells; Thomas v Brighton Health Authority; Page v Sheerness Steel Co plc; HL (Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Steyn, Lord Hope of

Craighead, Lord Clyde, Lord Hutton) 16 July 1998.

WHEN ASSESSING damages for anticipated future losses and expenses in personal injury cases, the court should fix the award by assuming that the plaintiffs would invest their damages in index-linked government stock, since that was the most accurate way of calculating the present value of the loss which the plaintiffs would actually suffer in real terms.

Christopher Purchas QC, George Godfrey (Russell Jones & Walker) for the appellant Wells; John Leighton Williams QC, Richard Melhuish QC (Linda Oliver) for the respondent Wells; Robert Owen QC, Philip Havers QC (Charles Russell) for the appellant Thomas; Karen Coonan QC, Christina Lambert (Hempsons) for the Brighton Health Authority; Christopher Purchas QC, Matthias Kelly (Russell Jones Walker) for Page; John Leighton Williams QC, Richard Melhuish QC (Lawrence Graham) for Sheerness Steel.

Capital allowances

Sarsfield (HMTT) v Dixons Group plc and ors: CA (Kennedy, Morritt, Thorpe LJ) 9 July 1998.

EXPENDITURE incurred by a member of a group of companies in constructing an extension to a building providing warehousing and transport facilities for retail shops operated by another group member did not qualify for capital allowances for industrial buildings since the building was ancillary to the purposes of the group's retail shops.

Michael Furness (Solicitor, Inland Revenue) for the Crown; Rex Breen QC, Stephen Brandon QC (Timmus Soimer & Webb) for the taxpayers.

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
alcohol, n.

Until the middle of the 17th century, that was the only meaning, but gradually, by extension, it came to be used to describe any fine powder and later,

since fine powders were often the product of chemical processes, for other products of distillation, especially "spirit of wine". Dr Johnson defined alcohol as: "an Arabic term used by chymists for a highly rectified dephlegmated spirit of wine, or for any thing reduced into an impalpable powder".



'Hurrah!' shout the children. 'It's the holidays.' 'Oh no,' say the parents. 'What are we going to do?' But don't panic. Today and tomorrow, we'll suggest enough options for the most active family. By Diana Appleyard

Breaking up is hard to do

WORKING PARENTS

Judith Gower from Stevenage in Hertfordshire is a full-time working mother. The summer holidays for her two children, aged nine and 12, have to be run like a military operation. Every day is carefully charted on a big wall planner, and woe betide if anyone falls ill or a day's activities have to be cancelled.

"I have had to work out exactly what the children will be doing every day of the holidays," she says. "It is so complicated it isn't true and if the youngest one is ill, I have no idea how I will cope at all."

Judith works for the computer firm ICL, and her husband Alan is an environment manager. Their eldest daughter Caroline feels that she is old enough to look after herself, and offers some resistance to her mother's meticulously orchestrated programme of child-care.

"For the few days of the holidays Alison is going away to Guide Camp," says Judith. "Then both girls are going to Camp Adventure, which is organised at the leisure centre by the local council. It's great in that it runs from 9am to 5pm, the girls take a packed lunch and it only costs £9 per day."

For the rest of the holiday Judith has organised for an older niece to come and stay to look after the two girls, then her parents are coming down from Lancashire to take charge, then the children go back to Camp Adventure, and then they are away on holiday.

"Alison is very enthusiastic about Camp Adventure, but Caroline says I'm ruining her holidays by making her go," says Judith. My response is: it's booked and you're going! When they go back to school I will have a big sigh of relief."

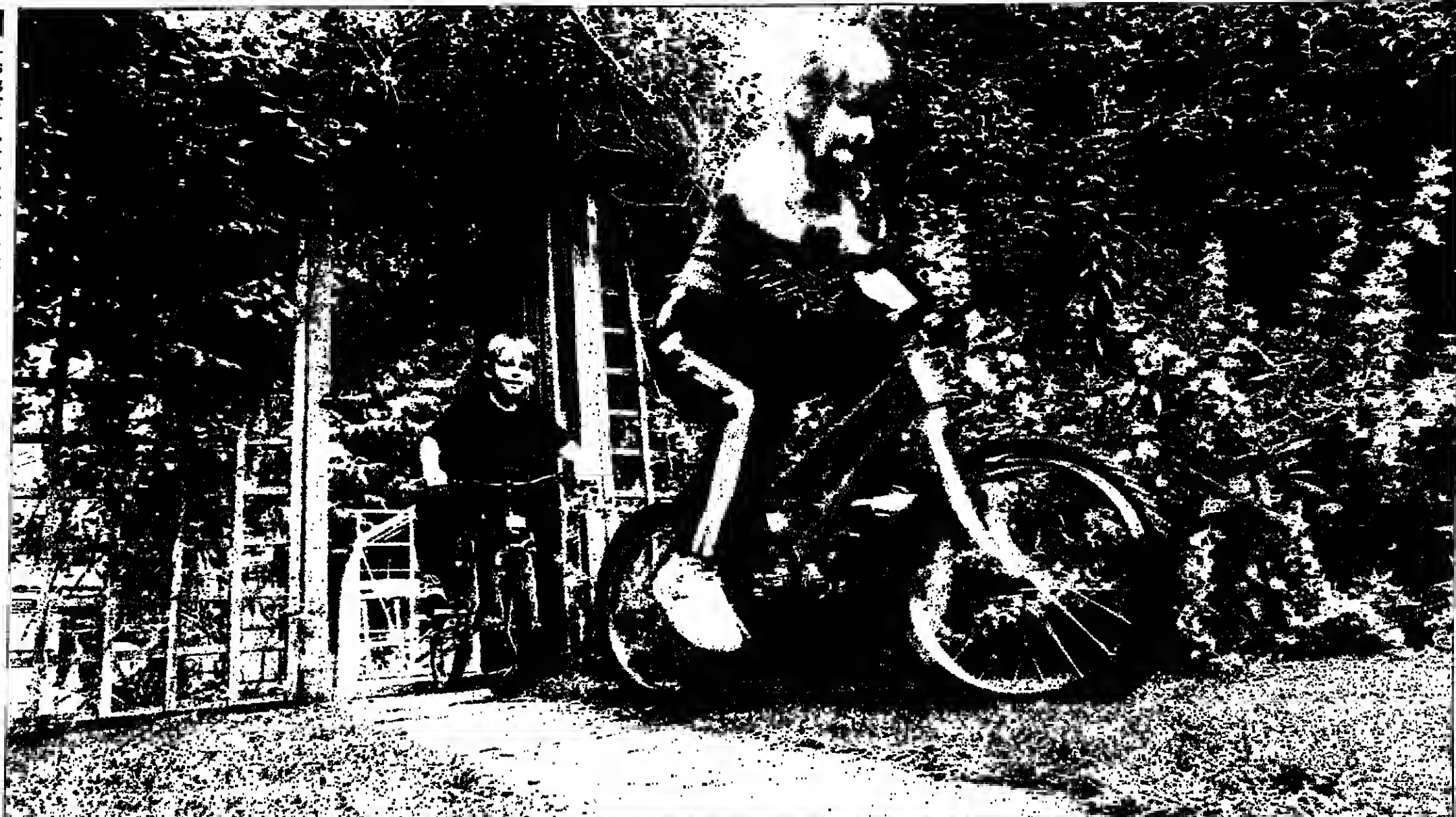
Organised week-long activity holidays on the lines of the American summer camp and French summer schools are becoming more and more of a popular option amongst parents and children. Many working parents are gradually letting go of the British moral code which says you must be with your children at all times whenever physically possible.

Marianne Gadian and husband Alan have signed up their two children, 13-year-old Jonathan and 11-year-old Naomi, for their third year of a residential week with ATE, an educational trust. Marianne works a part-time teacher for the deaf, and Alan is a mathematician.

Marianne says, "We wouldn't push the children to go if they didn't love it. They both go to highly pressurised academic schools in Manchester, and they love the freedom of being in the countryside and all the activities - singing, storytelling, handicrafts, as well as the French lessons. They get to mix with children from a whole range of social backgrounds, and they both have stayed friends with children they met on previous years. What I like about it is that they are having fun - but in a very secure environment as they're supervised 24 hours a day."

CAMP AND ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

Organised week-long activities can be expensive, but they generally run from 9am to 5pm, or can be residential. Look in your local newspaper



The Gower children may have plenty of time on their hands but their parents don't, so the holidays have been meticulously planned by their mother Judith

John Lawrence

per for details of local activity weeks, contact the recreation department at your local authority for details of activities at leisure and arts centres (these are usually quite cheap); or you can contact Isis - the Independent Schools' Information Service - for details of courses being run at private schools. These are usually excellent courses - in anything from cricket to art or music - but can be very expensive, from £100-£200 per child per week.

■ **ATE (Activity Training and Education)** runs highly-regarded residential summer courses for children aged between 8 to 14. The courses this summer are: from August 11-20 for ages 9 to 12 at Kinlet Hall in Bewdley, Worcestershire; and from August 21-30 at Falcon Manor near Towcester in Northants for 12 to 14-year-olds. Activities include swimming, music, drama, singing and playing games - children can

select individual sessions. Cost of the nine-day Superweek is £150 per child. Contact Chris Green on 01684 562400. This is a charitable trust - Baroness Warnock is the president. There are also maths special weeks and Anglo-French weeks. Ring for details. ■ **PGL** based in Ross-on-Wye are the market leaders in activity holidays, ranging from pony trekking to canoeing. Contact number: 01989 764211.

■ **Camp Beaumont** run activity holidays including computer and swimming courses, and a junior camp. Contact: 0171 724 2333.

■ **Action Holidays** run activity holidays, both residential and day attendance. Contact: 01706 314554.

■ **"The Mill on the Brue"** is a family-run centre for activity holidays with an educational slant, and is based in Somerset. Canoeing, abseiling, pony trekking. Contact: 01749 812307.

■ **The British Action Holiday Association Ltd** can be contacted on 01932 252994.

■ **The Adventure Activities Licensing Authority** can be contacted for details of affiliated companies offering activity holidays for children on 01222 755715.

FAMILY ON A BUDGET

Carolyn Humphreys finds it gets expensive entertaining two children in the summer holidays - five-year-old twins Jodie and James. Carolyn, who works part-time and her husband John, a builder, live in Buckinghamshire.

"Our idea of a perfect day out is to take the children to some nearby woods or a big open space," Carolyn says, "where we can walk or the children can play with a ball. We take a packed lunch with us, and the children really love having a picnic out-

side. At this age, the children just like to run about freely - they don't need sophisticated entertainment."

One of the family's ideal days is to pack up their people carrier with enough food for the day, buckets and spades and towels and head off to the nearest beach at West Wittering near Bognor Regis, about an hour and a half's drive. "It only costs around £2 to park, and the children absolutely love it. They come home tired out, and really happy."

CHEAP DAYS OUT

Start with your local library. They usually run free activities during the holidays, such as poetry days. Museums are another good bet - some do ask for a nominal charge, but many are free. Most are now interactive, with exciting exhibitions designed specifically for children, such as the dinosaur exhibition at Birmingham's city centre museum.

Your local authority recreation department will also have a list of reasonably-priced children's activities in your area, as well as swimming pools and lidos. If you do stay at home, remember that children like things to do with you - even if it's only for an hour or so a day. Stop caring about the state of your house and cook, let them help you with the gardening, buy clay and plasticine to make models, get out all those old games like Cluedo and Mouse Trap.

If you can get your hands on a pet (maybe even can borrow one) let them enter it for the local pet show. This will take up hours of grooming

and fussing over the unfortunate creature.

■ In London, children of all ages are being invited to make lanterns for the Coin Street Festival, which will be part of the Thames Festival procession along the riverside in September. Contact: 0171 401 2255.

■ At Alexandra Palace in London, a children's summer fun fair runs from 27 July to Sept 13, daily from noon to 7pm.

■ In Leicester at the City Art Gallery, the summer exhibition is *Animal Tales and Pet Confessions* running until September 5. Tuesday-Friday 11-6pm, Saturday 10-5pm. Admission free. There are also children's summer clubs and workshops. Contact: 0116 254 0595.

■ The Horniman Museum in London is something of a gem, tucked away in South London. Admission is free and exhibits include Egyptian mummies, a mummified crocodile and a stuffed walrus. There are children's workshops too. Contact: 0181 699 2339.

■ Church Farm Museum in Lincolnshire costs £1 for adults, 50p for children. Demonstrations of country crafts and rare breeds of sheep. Contact: 01754 766658. ■ In Edinburgh, try the Museum of Childhood. Admission is free, and its five galleries are crammed with toys and games from all around the world. Contact: 0131 529 4142.



Alison Gower, 9 (right) and her sister Caroline, 12, enjoying time off school

Paul Rogers

Forget the stiff upper lip, and start complaining

The walls are thin, the music's too loud and you've got a view of the pig farm. Alex Hayes shows how to get even

We British don't complain. It's not that we don't like complaining because it's vulgar or inappropriate, we simply don't know how to. Never was this more apparent than in the recent documentary, *The Tourist Trap*.

In the programme, the British tourists ate a disgusting roast, drank wine that tasted of vinegar, paid for the toilet paper, shared the pool area with goats, and put up with the eccentric behaviour of the hotel staff. Yet for the entire week, not one of them complained.

Maybe it is an art form, a skill, perfected over the years by a select group of nationalists. The French are probably the most accomplished complainers. "We are unashamed rule-breakers," agrees a Parisian banker currently working in the City. Americans, for their part, are famously the most demanding nation in the world: "We expect to get value for our money and believe in consumer rights," says a

spokesman for the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA).

If only we too showed the same dogged determination and insisted on that quality of service. Because we can whinge, rant and even rave quite well, but only to our friends and family.

Now, we need to challenge those who are directly responsible for our disappointments. And, at this time of year, travel agents and tour operators are inevitably among the serial offenders. But look out, some of us are finally fighting back.

In October 1997, the Maycock family travelled to holiday apartments in Tavira on the Algarve in Portugal. A "quiet countryside location, a perfect place to unwind," said the brochure. As it turned out, unless you enjoy the quiet of busy railway tracks just 25 feet away on one side of your room, and the mellow grunting and squealing of pigs on the other, as well as a dingy and dirty

apartment, nails in the swimming-pool, and a beach that looked like a rubbish tip, the chances are that this wasn't the holiday for you. "I don't expect everything to be perfect on a package holiday, but if the brochure promises a beautiful white sandy beach, it should deliver," says Mrs Maycock.

When the Maycocks complained to the tour operator on their return, the company concluded there was nothing wrong with the apartments. Then the Maycocks sent the tour operator a video showing every aspect of their holiday. At that stage, they were offered £120 compensation.

After a long, drawn-out battle, the Maycocks have decided to take the tour operator to the small claims court. "We are determined not to let them get away with it," insists Mrs Maycock. "I think English people either don't know about complaints procedures, or give up at the first hurdle because they can't face a long drawn-out struggle. Not us though."

Sean Tipton of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), which represents 90 per cent of British travel agents, is at pains to point out that only a tiny proportion of holidays go wrong each year and an even smaller number of the original complaints fail to be resolved before arbitration is required. Some 15 million holidays were taken last year. We received only 14,900 complaints and, of those, only 1,012 cases went to arbitration.

If you are one of those unfortunate 14,900 holiday victims, standard procedure is to send a letter to your tour operator outlining all the problems that you encountered. The operator must then reply in depth within 28 days.

But are the complaint figures so low because most holidays are of a high standard, or because we're simply lousy complainers? Helen O'Rahilly, editor of *Watchdog*, feels "that the majority of holidays are hassle-free but that, equally, most holiday-goers are unclear

about their rights. For a start, you can ask your travel agent for the Agent's Gazetteer. It's a no-holds-barred trade guide to the exact state of virtually every hotel in the tour operator's brochures. Also, it is important to lodge a formal complaint while you are still on holiday."

That is just what Steve Hyland did. He was promised a wonderful, relaxing break with his wife and two daughters in Tenerife. "We were told that the bar was undergoing some minor repair works, but that this would in no way upset our holiday. Being in construction myself, I phoned the hotel on a number of occasions to be absolutely sure that the complex was both quiet and safe for the children. They assured me it was."

But when the Hylands arrived, they were greeted by a full-scale building site. Undaunted, Mr Hyland gathered video evidence of the works in progress and, on his return to England, compiled a full, thorough dossier. "My wife and

I spent several hours on the day we got home writing down detailed notes about our holiday."

When the case eventually came to court, Sunworld were ordered to pay the Hylands £4,913 in compensation. "It just goes to show that if you have a solid case, backed up with hard evidence, you will be rewarded for your efforts," insists Mr Hyland.

The experience has not stopped the Hylands from going on package holidays again. "You promise yourself that you'll never travel with a tour operator again," says Mr Hyland. "But what can you do, their holidays are such good value?"

The Maycocks also hope to get away later in the year on a package holiday. At least they can book their break safe in the knowledge that apartments they stayed in have been dropped from the tour operator's brochures. That's one less disastrous destination on offer to the acquiescent British holiday-goers.

HOLIDAY ADVICE IN BRIEF

Holiday precautions:
■ Check your travel agent is registered with ASTA
■ Ask to see the Agent's Gazetteer

■ Study the brochure carefully, check small print
■ Get any promise made to you by your travel agent or tour operator written down in an official letter
■ Pay for your holiday by credit card as it is a proof of purchase

■ Take a video recorder with you just in case
■ Check the Watchdog web site www.bbc.co.uk/watchdog

While on holiday:
■ Take video footage of all problems
■ Keep a detailed diary of the events

■ Get in contact with your holiday rep
■ Write to your travel agent and the tour operator from your holiday site
■ Take down all the names

and addresses of other holidaymakers who feel the same way as you

On your return:

■ Write a concise letter of complaint to the tour operator
■ Send the tour operator copies of your video and photographic evidence
■ Persist with your claim if you are not happy with the first response
■ If still not satisfied, consider taking more formal steps such as arbitration with ABTA, AITO or a summons through the small claims court

Contacts:

■ Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) 0171-637 2444
■ Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO) 0181-7449280
■ Air Transport Users Council 0171, 242 3882

'Our friends called us Hattie and Eric'

A FAMILY AFFAIR

THIS WEEK, A BROTHER AND SISTER TALK ABOUT SHARING FLATS

Broadcaster and journalist Andy Kershaw, 38, lives in Crouch End, North London, with his partner and their son. His sister Liz Kershaw, 39, a television and radio presenter, lives in a Northamptonshire village with her partner and their two sons. In their youth, Andy and Liz shared several flats together in Leeds and London.

Andy Our first place was a student house in Leeds, a legendary one even by student standards. It could have inspired the house in the Young Ones. Our Elizabeth was three years ahead of me at Leeds University. When I arrived, she'd got a proper job working for BT. She wanted to be one of the boys though; to have this really straight job but live in a mad house staying up all night and drinking.

Living with our Elizabeth was an experience because she fills the place with her junk, usually large cumbersome items, particularly furniture. In my place in Crouch End, 60 miles from where she lives, I've still got one of her bargain sofas that she promised to collect.

Wherever she lives, she has these black bin liners filled with clothes. She never throws anything away and has got things in them that could make her look like something out of *Brotherhood of Man*.

After the first house, we went fairly upmarket - Elizabeth was always good at finding flats and she constantly had me on the move. We moved into this fabulous mock tudor house - still in Leeds - and had the whole of the top attic floor. The people in the rest of the house were absolutely appalled at the idea of us moving in - they used to complain about our 'high fidelity equipment'. It was just the two of us but we

had millions of friends staying. Boyfriends and girlfriends were also integral to the experience. Girlfriends had to be very thick-skinned to go out with me. Elizabeth would think nothing of walking into my bedroom when I was in there - whatever I was doing.

Elizabeth is a typical elder sister - she's always been very protective about me. She would vet all my girlfriends to such an extent there was at least one she escorted off the premises - and I was very keen on her. Nobody was good enough for me. Then I came home one day to find her new boyfriend on the settee. It turned out he was a constable. I was smoking industrial quantities of dope so after that meeting I wasn't seen for a very long time. I stayed with a friend up the road for ages.

Crucial to understanding our flat-sharing, mates used to call us Hattie and Eric. I suppose there is quite a bit of Eric Sykes in me - obsessive and a pain in the arse.

Then I was lucky and in early 1987 I got a job in London as a roadie for Billy Bragg. Within a year and a half, I was a presenter for the *Whistle Test* and then a Radio 1 DJ. I was going through this fairy tale existence. Inevitably, with me living in London, Elizabeth followed. I was in a tiny one bedroom flat in Crouch End. She slept in the living room on a sofa bed. Can you imagine how that cramped my style when I was trying to date every gorgeous woman in London?

Then she moved around the corner and recreated this world she'd always had; renting out rooms to a couple of pals of mine.

We're still very close - nothing's changed at all. I think of her every time I look at her sofa. She was round here last night. She's still very protective about me - still the bossy elder sister. I don't think she should have moved to the country. It's a fairly boring place to live once you've got over the fact that there are fields. She should move back to the civilisation that we call Crouch End.

Liz I've got an old film dad made of us as kids where we're both wearing matching clothes. We were in each other's shadow all the way through. One of our teachers used to say we were like twins. When we were really young, I used to be embarrassed by Andy because he couldn't tie his shoes or wipe his bottom - he used to shout from the boys' toilets, 'Elizabeth'.

As teenagers, we hated each other. I spent my time going out to clubs and buying records. He liked Bob Dylan and the Beach Boys, and I like disco music. He thought I was mindless. When I went to Leeds University, he was like the kid brother I'd left at home. I thought I was very grown-up and sophisticated.

When we shared a house, I think we complemented each other - at that point I was relatively boring. I'd bought a car and a pension where as Andy was living a wild rock'n'roll life booking bands for the university. We never used to argue really - we looked after each other. I did the cooking and he provided me with a string of boyfriends - his mates - one of whom I've settled down with now.

For him, though, none of them were good enough for 'Our Elizabeth'.

With Andy's girlfriends I always took the view that if he liked them then I'd try to. They were always really stunningly gorgeous which I could never understand. I did throw one out once. She was staying with us in London. One night Andy was out and she told me she was dating so-and-so and he was coming round to pick her up. She started doing herself up in the bathroom and I said, 'You can pack up your make-up and bags. You're not using my brother's bathroom to dress up like a tart to see another man.'

Andy always had ruthless things to say about the way my boyfriends looked. One turned up on a first date and he was wearing a blue and white striped shirt. Andy said, 'Where have you done time then? He had done time in a prison and was still wearing the shirt.'

What I enjoyed most about living with Andy was never knowing what would happen next. Yet we were never in dire straits - probably because I'm quite sensible. I deal well with the things Andy finds banal and mundane like Tesco's and accommodation arrangements.

When I moved away from Crouch End I think he took offence and felt I was rejecting him. He also felt that it was the end of an era. I do miss my brother. When we were both in London we shared everything - even a car. We have been a bit out of sync. When I first had children he had trouble understanding me. He'd say, 'Do you want to come to Cuba', and I'd say, 'I can't because of the children.' But now he's got a baby, it's changed again. I was round his recently and he said, 'Can you look after Sonny while I have a shower' and I thought, 'Right, now you know what it's like.'

INTERVIEWS BY EMMA COOK



Liz and Andy Kershaw at his house in Crouch End, still full of her bargain sofas Nicola Kurtz

When a woman of 71 is jailed for poll-tax arrears, something is wrong. By Grania Langdon-Down

The continuing toll of Britain's most hated tax

For 71-year-old Betty Jack, being jailed for not paying her poll tax was the final indignity inflicted by a hated tax that still haunts hundreds of thousands of people, six years after its ignominious abolition.

Confused and barely able to walk, Mrs Jack was distraught when bailiffs turned up at her home in Edlington near Doncaster, south Yorkshire, earlier this month to take her to prison to serve a 90-day sentence for the £450 still outstanding from the £1,000 originally demanded by Doncaster Metropolitan District Council for her poll tax in 1990 and 1991.

Horrified staff at New Hall Prison, near Wakefield, alerted probation officers who telephoned Richard Wise, a specialist in poll tax and fine cases. He spoke to Mrs Jack, who has Parkinson's disease and is wheelchair-bound after two hip replacements. He then instructed a barrister to apply to a High Court judge in London who ordered her release on bail pending a judicial review of her case. After six hours in custody, Mrs Jack's son came to take her home.

Wise, who has a formidable reputation for getting bail for people in custody on minor offences, said jailing vulnerable people for poll-tax arrears was "the economics of the madhouse", given that it costs £550 a week to keep a woman in prison.

"And once someone has served their sentence, the debt is effectively uncollectable because it can't be pursued a second time in the courts, so everyone loses out," he said.

He has more than 300 live poll-tax cases on his books. Far fewer people, he said, were being sent to prison for defaulting on fines and poll tax, this year, compared with the watershed year of 1996 when 22,000 people - 1,800 of them women - were jailed. However, he is still receiving two or three new poll-tax cases a week, many involving the poorest and most vulnerable people.

One is Sue Smith (not her real name), a single mother with three young children, who was jailed for 14 days by Teeside magistrates in April for £421 poll-tax arrears. She was ordered to pay a further £150 for the cost of her commitment.

She had begged the magistrates not to jail her because of the traumatic effect it would have on her and her children, one of whom suffers from severe asthma. She told

them she had been giving the money to a neighbour to pay her arrears but he had gone off with it. She suffered from severe depression and was receiving a disability living allowance. She asked the magistrates to take the money directly out of her benefits, but was told it was too late.

Wise got her bailed after one night in prison, and her case is among those now awaiting a judicial review.



Across the country, local authorities are trying to recover arrears of more than half-a-billion pounds from the two years the tax was in operation, from 1990 to 1992.

The latest figures for 1996/97 show councils in England and Wales wrote off £24m and only managed to collect 10 per cent of the arrears.

David Maddison, policy officer for the Local Government Association, said: "Some authorities say it is still a nice little earner and they will go on collecting while it is economic to do so. The message from local government is never ever say or do anything to suggest you have given up, or those people resisting will dig their heels in further. But at some point, it will become uneconomic to collect it."

Mrs Jack's council is one of those actively pursuing its £2.9m of poll-tax arrears. More than 8,000 people are still paying off the tax through deductions from their income

support or wages. Twenty-five people were jailed for failing to pay in the year to March 1998.

A council spokesman said: "We are under a legal obligation to pursue arrears. While, at some point, you have to consider whether it is worthwhile, there is still a lot of money owed to the council."

He also said that data-protection regulations meant that the council's finance department only held an individual's name, address, and amount owed, so it was unaware of Mrs Jack's disabilities. It had merely informed the magistrates' court - which had imposed the sentence on Mrs Jack in 1994, suspended on condition of regular payments - that payments had stopped.

"Nobody is quite sure where the ultimate responsibility lies in ensuring the court knows a person's situation. Maybe the judicial review will make it clear," he said.

So far, Doncaster magistrates have not commented on Mrs Jack's case because of the judicial review. However, Michael Calvert, chairman of the Magistrates' Association's sentencing committee, said that, in general, jailing someone for not paying a debt should be an "absolutely last resort" following an individual's "wilful refusal or culpable neglect" to keep up payments.

Wise said he did not think that Doncaster magistrates would want to defend their decision in Mrs Jack's case in the High Court, and would want to settle out of court.

There is a six-year time limit on taking legal action to claim money owed. The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux said they were concerned that some local authorities had stepped up their pursuit of arrears to avoid debts lapsing. They had received a spate of complaints from people being chased for arrears, which they either felt they were not liable for, or had paid but had lost proof of payment.

Mrs Jack is not the only vulnerable person to suffer. In May, a man in his late 70s received a letter from Wirral Borough Council regarding his poll-tax arrears. He was very distressed as she had been in a home for the last five years suffering from senile dementia.

Wise concluded: "While I can understand tax-payers not wanting people to get away with not paying their share, there does come a point when the human and administrative costs of collecting this money far outweigh any benefit to society."

Art's bad girl with no teeth

Continued from page 1

cupboard where I rectified the names of the Osmonds. She recently celebrated her 35th birthday with a big party in Margate, her home town. She doesn't quite know what she got up to. "All I know is I woke up the next day with blood and sand all over my face, and a lump the size of an ostrich egg on my forehead." She is, perhaps, becoming as much a part of the spectacle as her art. But, then again, perhaps she always has been.

Tracey Emin's great subject is Tracey Emin. She is her art. We know she was raped in an alley at 13, because she put it in her book *Exploration of The Soul*. We know she underwent a hideous abortion because, in her first ever exhibition, it was documented by a phial of body tissue. I know she once had an affair with a married Turkish man - there is a framed letter to him on her studio wall ("I know I made your wife ill and children unhappy..."). I know she once went to sleep with an Orangina bottle up her, because she gives me one of her short stories to read and it's in there. We know, even, everyone she ever slept with between 1963 and 1995 because she embroidered their names on the inside of a tent in *Everyone I've Ever Slept With - 1963-1995*. There is something quite riveting about some of her stuff. I feel its pull myself. But does this pull have anything to do with artistic significance? Confessional creativity - visual or otherwise - is nothing new. Look at Sylvia Plath. But with Plath's poetry, for example, there is sufficient literary merit for it to stand up independently from the experience that prompted it. Can the same be said for Tracey's stuff? Or is something much more voyeuristic going on here? Am I drawn to her work simply because I'm a nice, middle-class girl whose own *Everyone I've Ever Slept With* (1961-1995) could be easily accommodated under a J-cloth? Has this uneducated, working-class girl from Margate with her uneducated, working-class experiences become the art world's chosen bit of rough? By the way, she doesn't like Sylvia Plath. "Load of f---ing drivel!"

Still, there is something quite thrilling about Tracey herself. She is fabulous to look at. Both seedy and glamorous, plus seriously thin. "If you drink a lot, you can forget to eat for four days, can't you?" Her face is a dark, darting thing of sharp angles and an amazing, strangely sexy mouth crammed with wonky and uneven teeth. Bizarrely, the teeth aren't even her own. Hers were knocked out when her twin brother, Paul, head-butted her as a kid. She wears false ones. She takes them out for me later, and gives me a big, gummy grin. She's had special clasps fitted on the back of them, so that when she drinks too much and vomits, they don't come flying out. "It was 'orrible before. I'd have to go through my own sick, looking for 'em."

This is not something I especially want to know. But the other thrilling thing about her is her honesty. She is emotionally very real. She does what she does because she believes in it. She was brought up to be open, she says. "My mum always said to me, 'I don't care what you do, just tell me the truth. When I was 13 I'd say to her, 'I don't know what time I'll be back, because I might meet so-and-so and have a shag. So she just put me on the pill.' Do you ever lie? Just a little one sometimes. I was at my friend's the other day and I went to put my knickers in the washing machine, and opened it while it was going, and water went everywhere. So when he came back I said, 'I think your washing machine has got a leak'. I just didn't want him to know I didn't know how to work a washing machine." She is spectacularly undomesticated. The only thing she can cook is a



Tracey Emin at her studio in Waterloo, London

fishfinger sandwich. "When I was at school we had cooking, but my mum could never afford the ingredients. So she eventually sent a note to the teacher saying 'I don't want any daughter of mine becoming a slave to some man'. Another Stella?"

She and her twin brother were the result of a long-standing affair between their father, a Turkish Cypriot called Envar Emin, and their mother, Pamela. Envar also had a wife and family in London, whom he never left. Tracey and Paul grew up in Margate, with their father staying with them for three days every week. Tracey used to cry when he left. "I cried for my mum as much as anyone, though."

Envar was a property developer whose fortunes seemed to fluctuate wildly. At one point Tracey and Paul and their mum were living in and running an 80-room hotel. But then he went bust, so the family had to squat in a cottage in the grounds. Tracey packed in school at 13. She hung about on the beach, drinking cider. She was raped and lost her virginity on 31 December, 1976. It was late at night. She'd just left the local disco, Top Spot. This bloke followed her out. How about a New Year's snog? he said. OK, she said. But then he pulled her down an alley behind Burton's, pulled her tights down and raped her. Did you cry? "I think I whimpered during it, and cried after. There was blood on my new coat." She wasn't unduly shocked. "It was to be expected. It was what happened in Margate. You don't lose your virginity. It gets broken into." She is now making a feature film based on this incident. Like I said, there is no real difference between Tracey as Tracey, and Tracey as art in the world.

However, she did not find her first sexual experience especially off-putting. "Once I lost my virginity, I thought oh well, I might as well go for it." She went on to have sex with most of the blokes in the town. Did any of them, I ask, take her on a date or anything before having sex with her? "I don't remember that any of them did, no."

She is now in a steady relationship, she continues, and may have a baby. Being such a massive egoist can, she says, get quite tedious. "And I'm nebulously bored at the moment. I just want something beyond myself, something else to think about. I don't mind adopting." Do you actually like children, Tracey? "No! I f---ing hate 'em. I'm famous for sending out party invitations with 'NO CHILDREN' on them. But maybe I'm changing." More likely, she's beginning to run out of experiences and needs a new one. The drink can't take

her to many interesting places any more. When she moved to London, she ended up living in a squat with art students. She looked at what they were doing and thought, "I can do that." She enrolled at The John Cass School of Art in the East End, where the fees were £1 a week. From there, she won a place at Maidstone College of Art and went on to the Royal College, where she had a bad time. She didn't really fit in. She had that abortion. She had it the one week, but had to return to the hospital the next week, because she was feeling so ill. As she got out of the cab, a foetus slid down her thigh. She must have been carrying twins, she says, "and it had this terrible guilt effect. I thought the child didn't want to leave me." She tried to commit suicide. She threw herself off the harbour wall in Margate at night, while totally drunk. She felt herself sink to the bottom, then rise slowly to the surface again. She accepts she is a great survivor. "My mum says if there's ever a plane crash, and I'm on that plane, and there's only one survivor, she wouldn't have to call anyone to find out it's me."

After the abortion everything went downhill. "I gave up my studio, destroyed all my art (paintings, mostly), and went into a deep depression." Eventually, she returned to the fringes of the art scene by opening a shop with artist Sarah Lucas. She was offered an exhibition at Jay Jopling's White Cube Gallery. It was her first exhibition but, convinced it would be her last, she gave it the ironic title "My Major Retrospective". She sifted through all the junk in her boxes and began to build an exhibition out of what she found - letters, diary entries, the funny childhood dolls and trolls she'd never thrown away. She was off.

Whatever you may think of what she does, she is now firmly part of the art scene. The British Museum has bought some of her stuff, as has the Tate. She has a solo show coming up in Japan in October. She's working on another book. She's made a single with Boy George. She's just finished a film with Pulp. Saatchi bought her tent for a reputed £40,000. She shops at Agnes B and Patrick Cox. "I could afford a big house with a nanny if I wanted it," she says.

She has guts and quite a brave spirit, I think. Still, there is something very sad and messed up about her. She seems more used than a user. Plus, of course, you can be truthful without necessarily hitting on any truths. A spectacle? Yes. Definitely. But I'm just not sure how much longer people are going to want to watch it.



A bored guitar prodigy shows few flashes of bass instinct

IMAGINE WHAT it must be like to be Marcus Miller, if you can. From the age of 16 you've been regarded as a prodigy. Your bass playing is so distinctive, so bouncy, so downright funky that not only have you been the mainspring of assorted R&B hits before you're out of your teens but also Miles Davis offers you the opportunity to drive the rhythm section of his comeback project following half a decade in a hip sing.

Then, while basking in the glow of all that, you find yourself doing not

only the basslines but co-production work on all Luther Vandross's best albums, then being hired in tandem with Luther to revive Aretha Franklin's career with her best records in a decade. This gives rise to your own solo album deal, which bears half-decent fruit.

Then it's back in the studio with Miles, for the remainder of the great man's life, to function as his musical amanuensis and director, and to acquire the kind of mystique that cannot be affected merely with a jazz

hat, a cool walk and an abundance of stupendous technique.

Finally, Miles pegs out, leaving you to session it for a while until, in the mid-Nineties, you at last release a wholly decent solo album, presenting your constituency of rabid fans with something to admire that has your own name at the top of the credits. Suddenly you are no longer a sideman but a frontman, and you breathe the rarefied oxygen of authorship. What to do? Why go out on the road and show off, of course.

ROCK

MARCUS MILLER
THE BARBICAN,
LONDON

Miller is better than his show at the Barbican would have led you to believe. This performance was grounded in the kind of values that gave the athletic sort of electric jazz a bad name during the period Miles was in bed in the Seventies. Miller

began with a spotlit exhibition of outrageous solo technique and continued down that path; one whizzy, dizzy extemporary climax piling on top of another, with no concessions to taste, discretion or the collective spirit, until even the bull-necked Miller in the row in front was reduced to merely flicking his finger-ends to gether in desultory applause at guitarist Hiram Bullock's party-pieces. Miller can be a lot better than this, as he revealed, wholly unexpectedly, when his bass clarinet came out,

his head went down, and suddenly we were participating in a thoughtful wander around the perimeter of "Amazing Grace", softly played and graced with country fills and quadruple-time hisses from Poogie Bell's hi-hat. Lovely it was, and unusual and probing. And it drew from the hand the sort of inward concentration that Miller will have learned from Miles is the only proper way to communicate with an audience that is prepared to listen as well as clap. I found

myself clenching my neck while he reached for the notes.

Then it was back to bass guitar, more stupendous clanging and slapping, more elephantine stomping from Bullock, another meek toot or two from the horns, and that was that. They looked tired and rutted into their routines, as if their wheels were spinning in mud, making a lot of noise and getting nowhere. What's it like to be Marcus Miller? Bored, one should imagine.

NICK COLEMAN

If it doesn't make you laugh, it's ITV

ITV are behind in the sitcom stakes. But if they take comedy seriously, we'll all be happy. By Veronica Lee

THINK OF any halfway decent sitcom in the past 30 years and, chances are, you will name a stream of BBC or Channel 4 programmes, from *Steptoe and Son* and *Roseanne* to *Absolutely Fabulous* and *Friends*. With a few honourable exceptions, ITV despite its efforts to compete with BBC's home-grown award-winners and Channel 4's American imports, lamentably fails to produce the goods. But now, with a string of sitcoms airing during the summer and autumn, they are mounting a serious challenge to their rivals.

When it has applied itself in the past, ITV has done well - *Agony* and *Rising Damp* are high points in British TV, while *On the Buses*, *Bless This House*, *George and Mildred* and *Robin's Nest* were good enough for their catchphrases and characters to enter a nation's collective memory. But when they were bad, they were very, very bad. Suffice to say the words *Amie's Bar*, *No Honestly*, *Oh No! It's Selwyn Froggitt*, *That's My Boy*... Feeling suicidal yet? *Duty Free*, *Fresh Fields*, *Nearest and Dearest*, *Keep It In the Family*... Be careful with that kitchen knife, now.

ITV's weekday London franchise, Carlton, wants to erase memories of those awful programmes and is busily developing big-name projects for both ITV and the BBC.

Two new commissions have already aired, and a third starts later this month. *Kiss Me Kate* is back for a second series later this year on BBC1, while on ITV, *Get Real* is halfway through its first run and *Babes in the Wood* started last week.

This high profile for new sitcoms comes at a crucial time for ITV. Its recently appointed Controller of Programmes, David Liddiment, has spoken of the slump in ITV comedy. "Everyone is struggling and it's a cause for concern. We seem to have lost the knack of making people laugh."

He must be hoping that the new generation of ITV sitcom - a world away from the lumpy settee and lumpy jokes of yesteryear - will pull in viewers. The new shows all have strong casts: *Kiss Me Kate* has Caroline Quentin of *Men Behaving Badly*, *Get Real* has ex-RSC actress Lindsay Duncan, and *Babes in the Wood* Denise Van Outen (*The Big Breakfast*) and Samantha Janus (*Game On*). Plus they look good and boast quality production and director credits. And ITV has such faith in *Babes in the Wood* that it commissioned a Christmas special before it had even gone into production.

Nick Symons, executive producer of *Get Real* and *Kiss Me Kate*

enthusias about the new ITV sitcoms: "The writing is very strong, what these shows have in common is a fresh and contemporary feel."

Well, do they live up to that billing? *Kiss Me Kate* is about a group of twentysomethings living and working in a large London house; *Get Real* is about a group of thirtysomethings living in a large London house; while *Babes in the Wood* is about a group of twenty- and thirtysomethings living in a London apartment block.

FROM SUBLIME TO STUPID



Three all-time greats:

Rising Damp (1974-78)

Eric Chappell's farce about a group of losers gathered in a decrepit boarding-house.

Agony (1979-81)

Only British sitcom written by a US-style team, including creators Anna Raeburn and Len Richmond, about life as an agony aunt.

Please Sir! (1968-71)

John Esmonde and Bob Larbey's finest hour on ITV with John Alderton as a teacher constantly outsmarted by Penn Street School's 5C.

Three absolute stinkers:

Love Thy Neighbour (1972-76)

Racist, sexist, driven by Harry Driver and Vince Powell.

Mind Your Language (1977-79)

Vince Powell again left no ethnic stereotype unused in a language school set-up.

Up the Elephant and Round the Castle (1983-85)

A chauffeur gets off with his posh employer. An apt vehicle for Jim Davidson's talents.

Remind you of anything? If the new writers have rejected the tired old ITV conventions, they seem to have tuned into Channel 4 instead.

If the talent of a *Friends* or *Fraser* had rubbed off, that would be no bad thing. "British sitcom tends to be much more theatrical and therefore slower," says Mark Russell,

executive producer of *Babes in the Wood*. "The Americans are much more filmic and there is a completely different pace and rhythm to storytelling. In the US, there would be anything between 15 and 40 scenes and anything between three and eight storylines in a 24-minute episode. Here, the tradition is to have two storylines maximum. When the characters and acting is brilliant and the dialogue sparkling, nobody minds, but all too often, it's not."

"US sitcoms have the advantage of rattling along. The greatest challenge for British sitcom is how to tell a number of funny stories and slice them up to give them the energy of a *Friends* or *Fraser*." Russell admits ITV has a long way to go to match such elegant writing. And C4's much-vaunted Sitcom Festival, where writers can try out their ideas with star actors and directors before a live audience at the Lyric Hammersmith, has so far failed to come up with a single idea that has reached the TV screen.

But perhaps we are expecting too much. American networks expect a good sitcom to last 200-250 episodes and many, such as *Cheers* or *Roseanne*, were allowed to survive a wobbly start. ITV, however, rarely allows a show to get "legs". It canned *Men Behaving Badly* after one series; it has since been consistently in the BBC's top 10.

ITV routinely invests £1m-£1.5m in a new sitcom series and wields the axe ruthlessly if it doesn't reach the magic figure of eight million viewers; consequently, it has an incredibly high turnover of new sitcoms. No one at ITV seems to have thought of reducing the number of new commissions and putting twice or three times that amount into one project.

The main spend is often on getting a "name" to front a sitcom, but the key investment is in writers. Even the very best actors can't make lines of the "Oops Vicar, mind my drawers" variety sound witty or fresh. US sitcoms recognise that if the basic material is weak, the show will flop. Writers there get 30 to 40 per cent of a show's budget, while in the UK, it is a woeful 3 to 4 per cent.

When such a small slice of the pie goes to the writing, it is little wonder that the quality is often pitiful. It takes time and effort to achieve perfection; the funniest lines can be the result of a whole day's work by as many as a dozen writers on a US sitcom, but it is money well spent.

David Liddiment has said that ITV wants to foster comedy talent. With the laughoramas of yesteryear, it is out a moment too soon.



Back in action 'like the electrocuted bendy doll of old': Jarvis Cocker at Finsbury Park

Andrew Buurman

Talk of Jarvis in crisis is just pulp fiction

POP

PULP, ULTRASOUND,
CATATONIA AND BERNARD
BUTLER
FINSBURY PARK, LONDON

"I DON'T believe how many people are here," coos Catatonia's Cerys Matthews with characteristic wide-eyed wonder. "It's mental!" And to think that only recently Pulp were branded as bruised casualties of a crisis in British pop.

Combine this jam-packed showing of slightly grown-up ex-Britpopers with no mod, no rain and no cancellation, and Pulp's ambitious comeback gig at Finsbury Park - the first time they've headlined their own festival and following recent reviews for *This Is Hardcore* - should be remembered as 1998's unluckiest but most heartening festival success.

Shame about the support bands, though. Only heroic punk prog rockers Ultrasound match the sizzling weather with the shimmering, searing "Floodlit World", the deliciously tart whimsy of new single "I'll Show You Mine" and a fine showing

of singer Tiny's stomach. By contrast, Bernard Butler whinges testily and plays so many guitar solos that he may soon become popular with those who don't think one Paul Weller is too much.

Catatonia's glittered-up and garulous Cerys provides some relief with her no-nonsense, London-baiting suggestion that we come to Cardiff next time, but her band's standard indie pub pop is starting to feel stale. Maybe it's those titles. Wasn't "Road Rage" last year's headline? Haven't "Mulder and Scully" just hit big-screen franchise hell with *The X-Files: The Movie*? At

this rate Catatonia's first single for 1999 could be called "Godzilla". Keep up, please.

Pulp, on the other hand, seem tugely relevant. Perhaps it's because *This Is Hardcore* is about the disappointment that comes with getting what you spent years dreaming about. It isn't too fanciful to see the album as an accidental but perfect soundtrack to the realisation that Blair's Cool Britannia is one big con, just as "Common People" was the key Britpop anthem.

No wonder, then, that Pulp get a steaming welcome from the mass of no doubt one-time Blair-worshipping ex-Britpopers. As Jarvis mimics heroically on to stage for "The Fear", any worries that this introverted (the lyrics are all self-reflection), angst-ridden epic wouldn't work in the open air are shattered as he milks it for maximum catharsis. He's soon dancing like the elec-

trocuted bendy doll of old, tossing aside his self-confessed doubts about being a pop star with a flick of that wrist and creating implausible intimacies amongst thousands with doxy confessions like "You frighten me".

From such booziness it's just one step to making us feel like we're in his bedroom for the seedy "Seductive Barry", a grown-up take on the adolescent fumbblings in old Pulp songs such as "Acrylic Afternoons".

Less has changed for Pulp musically than some critics have suggested. Bittersweet new songs like "A Little Soul" and "Disables" simply build on the subtle sadness that made even the dazzling, dayglo pop of "Disco 2000" more than just a pretty chorus. Pulp are still the same band, only older, bolder, smarter and better. This, a crisis in British pop? Let's have more of them.

KEVIN HARLEY

We aren't dumbing down art, we are educating people

Christopher Naylor, head of Gallery Week, replies to an article printed in *The Independent* last week

I HAVE an image in my head from a horror movie. Someone hears of some appalling atrocity - and then realises that the news refers to their nearest and dearest. I exaggerate, but this captures something of my feelings when I - as one of those responsible for Gallery Week this year - read *The Independent's* verdict on the nationwide event last week. For the big beast that Gallery Week has become, long in the gestation, to be culled by friends at birth...? A case of mistaken identity, let's hope. Something that has always delighted me about art is its generosity of spirit. David Hockney's words "encourage,

enluse, engage" to describe Gallery Week crystallise the week's aims.

As director of Charleston, the Bloomsbury home in Sussex, I recall Duncan Grant being mocked for his difficulty in criticising others' work. The creative act - making art, putting it on show for all to see, to love or hate - is a risky, dangerous business. The effort itself deserves praise.

And moreover, those who make that effort offer big dividends to us all. The arts - particularly, perhaps, the visual

arts - are the last frontier, where we go to explore others' feelings, thoughts and ways of life.

As our third Gallery Week draws to a close, it is a delight that the importance of art seems more widely recognised. The Chancellor Gordon Brown recently spoke of the importance of galleries to education, social inclusion and regeneration. The World Cup Final episode of *EastEnders* featured a love scene in a gallery. Gallery Week must take some part of the credit for the Culture Secretary Chris Smith's announcement for

the promotion of access and education initiatives for galleries.

So it was with some surprise that I read the *Independent's* verdict.

This was not only a missed opportunity, to champion the positive commitment of the nearly 400 galleries who support the week, or to flag up current threats - the loss of art in primary schools, the dismantling of the art adviser system, the continuing cuts at major galleries - but it was also some of it, plain unfair.

Gallery Week was accused of "dumbing down" - typified as "a kid's amusement on a rainy afternoon" - ducking the issue of the necessary "difficultness" of art. But this year, for the first time, the event attracted the support of top West End galleries - d'Offay's, Art-First, White Cube. And, also for the first time, Gallery Week proposed themes to encourage the experiment with audiences. One theme, Words and Pictures, resulted in several hundred story-telling, poetry-reading, label-writing events

across the country encouraging participants of all ages to "read" works of art.

Gallery Week was attributed with the premise that art is perceived as difficult - and by implication with a concern to over-simplify. Nothing could be further from the truth - Gallery Week's raison d'être is not to dumb down but to talk up, to equip audiences to face the challenge of art at the cutting edge.

But part of this must be to help develop confidence in relation to galleries and art. Do

we teach children to read by locking them in a library?

Does it belittle great literature to start with short sentences and phonics? Children need to be helped to "read" art too.

With a venture as broadly-based and as new as Gallery Week, a constructive shot across the bows is always welcome. But visual art risks shooting itself in the foot if its commentators appear to spurn intelligent efforts to share understanding and broaden access.

Christopher Naylor is director for the National Association for Gallery Education

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NETWORK

Hypermarkets in cyberspace

Opening an Internet account could soon be as simple as buying baked beans.

By Stephen Pritchard

For more than a year, shoppers in some parts of Britain have been able to buy their groceries over the Internet. Now, we can buy access to the Internet with our groceries.

This month, Tesco launched its new Internet service. This follows an announcement by the Nationwide Building Society that it was becoming an Internet service provider (ISP) and an offer of free Virgin Net accounts from Cllbank.

The companies that pioneered the Internet in the UK were typically small local outfits run for and by enthusiasts. Popularising the Internet was just as important as profit.

As a result, there are well over a hundred ISPs in the UK and the market for a simple, dial-up connection is fiercely competitive. It is possible to sign up for an unlimited-use Internet account with multiple e-mail addresses, free Web space and free software for £7.50 a month. In France, where there are far fewer ISPs, it costs twice that much.

The UK Internet market has become even more competitive as the large telecommunications companies started to take the business seriously. Two years ago, BT launched BT Internet; last year it added Line One, a consumer online service.

Cable & Wireless entered the market for dial-up accounts; UUNET, which operates the Pipex Dial service in the UK, became part of US telecom giant Worldcom. Earlier this year, Scottish Telecom bought one of the earliest ISPs, Demon.

Phone companies have vast infrastructures, teams of engineers, sophisticated billing systems and enormous marketing muscle. Smaller, specialist ISPs had a head start, but they always knew that the kees of BT would catch up; when they did, life would become far more difficult for the independent service providers. In just over two years, BT Internet, for example, has taken 10 per cent of the total market for Internet connections. Its share of the IP market is far higher.

The telecommunications companies have a vested interest in promoting the Net. Almost all personal Net users connect using a phone line, so Net access is potentially an important source of revenue for the phone companies. Moreover, they dominate the market for corporate Internet access, selling high-speed connections to companies that want to sell their goods and services over the Net. The larger the Net market, the more the phone companies will be able to sell leased lines, managed servers and consultancy to their clients.

The telecommunications companies have a more direct interest in the "new" Internet services being offered by banks and retailers. It would be extremely expensive and risky for a chain of shops, for example, to invest in the infrastructure and technical support needed to become an Internet service provider. It is quicker and more economical to buy those services in.

In the cases of Tesco and Nationwide, the actual Internet service comes from BT, branded and marketed by the retailers. For companies such as BT, alliances with well-known brands will increase, demand for Internet access to grow. He concedes, though, that there are barriers preventing "not so Net aware" people from connecting. One is the cost and lack of ease of use of computers. Another is the Internet business itself. To become truly mass market, the Internet needs mass market brands that people trust. "People do not like to subscribe to an anonymous ISP. These new, branded ISPs will overcome that," he predicts.

That is certainly the hope of Tesco, which says the Internet service was set up as a result of customer demand. "People might prefer a household name to a technical name," says Ian O'Reilly, Tesco's director of IT.

Tesco's package is similar to many dedicated ISPs' offerings: unlimited access, 5mb of Web space, five e-mail addresses and technical support with local rate phone numbers. "Part of the appeal of Tesco doing it is that we are a known entity, and we have customer trust," explains O'Reilly. Price, though, is sure to be a key selling point - £3.99 for a monthly subscription, or £39 for customers who pay a year in advance. Subscriptions also count towards the store's Clubcard loyalty programme. BT Internet's own service costs £11.75 a month.

Retailers - and Tesco is not the only store chain taking an active interest in the Net - are doing more than trading on brand loyalty. Online shopping for groceries and, potentially, financial services are an important motivation.

O'Reilly describes the Tesco.net service as "supplementary to grocery home shopping". If the chain wants to promote electronic shopping, there are obvious advantages in offering a branded service to customers rather than forcing them to shop around for an Internet account before visiting the Web store.

This thinking is shared by the Nationwide, which will become an ISP later this summer. It was the first organisation to introduce Internet banking last year, and it sees Internet service provision as a logical next step. The service will only be available to the society's members, although there is no requirement to use Nationwide as an ISP to use the Internet banking service. Colin Whittle, head of electronic channels at the Nationwide, says that Internet banking is part of the society's commitment to giving customers round-the-clock access to accounts. Becoming an ISP completes the picture. "And it adds value to being a member of Nationwide," he adds.

Banks and building societies have a compelling reason to encourage Internet banking: it saves them money. Savings, though, depend on enough people using the service. Also, as high street banks are slow to launch their own Internet services, it is a useful way for organisations such as Nationwide to win new, high-earning customers. "One of the things that will drive it [Internet use] is if



people can access financial services," Whittle says. Industry analysts agree that retailers are not entering the market because they want to sell Internet accounts. In fact, even well-established ISPs find it extremely difficult to make money out of dial-up Internet access. In May this year, Internet provider I-Way, which covers the hi-tech Thames Valley area, announced that it would no longer sell dial-up Internet accounts to the public. Instead, it is concentrating on business connections.

To be truly mass-market the Net needs mass-market brands that people trust

rather than erode their share of the Internet market.

John Swingewood, director of BT's Internet and multimedia services, believes that services such as Tesco.net will appeal to new customers who are not already online rather than poach business from existing ISPs. "These companies have established relationships with their customers," he says. "It will be an extension of the market."

Swingewood, like most senior figures in the business, expects the

demand for Internet access to grow. He concedes, though, that there are barriers preventing "not so Net aware" people from connecting. One is the cost and lack of ease of use of computers. Another is the Internet business itself. To become truly mass market, the Internet needs mass market brands that people trust. "People do not like to subscribe to an anonymous ISP. These new, branded ISPs will overcome that," he predicts.

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Like the phone companies, retailers have an interest in increasing the total Internet market. Their economies of scale will kick in, and electronic commerce will become profitable. It is not just selling over the Internet that matters, but providing customer services. If an insurance company can persuade even 10 per cent of its customers to make their claims using the Net, they will make considerable savings.

What matters is to bring in new customers, people who might not otherwise have thought about going online. "It will be a different kind of customer," predicts Daniel Bielek of consultancy Ovum and author of a forthcoming report on Internet services. Experienced computer-users are unlikely to switch ISPs, he believes. "ISPs gain a lot by this move: they are moving much closer to gaining critical mass. Shops also gain because they are bringing in more on-line users; you reach critical mass and economies of scale come in."

Banks have a compelling reason to encourage Internet banking: it cuts costs

For shops, banks and other retailers, making money on Internet accounts themselves might not matter that much. If they can price the service to cover their costs, there are plenty of commercial opportunities elsewhere. Promoting on-line shopping is just the most obvious example. From a marketing point of view, "owning" a customer's Internet account is very powerful. We might only pass our favourite supermarket once a week; if we use their Internet service, we will see their

brand at least once a day. The idea is to become a "portal site", the first place we go when we use the Net.

"Some retailers believe they are going to create portal sites," suggests Ken Fraser, principal analyst at Dataquest. "This gives them a very strong marketing position." Retailers will be able to use their Internet services to tell us about special offers or new products and also to build up information about our shopping patterns.

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BYTES

STEVE BALLMER was promoted last week to president of Microsoft. Ballmer, 42, a friend of chairman Bill Gates since their student days at Harvard University, joined Microsoft in 1980, five years after its foundation. He has amassed a personal fortune in stock of about \$13.5bn.

Gates said the appointment would allow him to spend more time with software developers working on "architectural breakthroughs" for a new generation of devices such as television set-top boxes, smart phones and tablet computers.

AN INTERPLANETARY Internet was outlined at the annual Internet Society conference in Geneva last week raising the possibility of new domain names such as .earth and .mars being added to the existing hierarchy.

Vincent Cerf, senior vice president of MCI Communications, who helped create the TCP/IP technology on which the Net operates, said that he has been working with NASA to develop a Web protocol for use on future space expeditions.

WINDOWS 98 sales are set to match those of Windows 95 over its first three months, a Microsoft official said last week.

Less welcome news for Microsoft emerged in New York in the run up to September's anti-trust case brought against it by the Department of Justice (DOJ). Prosecutors said that Microsoft is using illegal tactics to monopolise the multi-media software market. It is claimed that Microsoft tried to persuade Apple to withdraw from the consumer market for multi-media software in exchange for an endorsement of Apple software tools.

A Microsoft spokesman denied the charges. An Apple spokeswoman said "We have been subpoenaed by Microsoft and the DOJ and are complying fully."

CHIP MANUFACTURERS Motorola and AMD last week entered a seven-year strategic alliance for developing advanced processors. Motorola will license to AMD its copper process technology, which will be used to manufacture faster chips than is possible with current aluminium-based technology. AMD will license its flash-memory technology to Motorola.

INTEL is cutting the price of its chips for the fourth time this year with further cuts scheduled for September and October. The cuts herald the release of its fastest yet Pentium III processor next month. The 450MHz PIII will be priced at \$855 for volume quantities, a lower price than anticipated.

OXFORD University is set to offer via the Internet, postgraduate degrees in computing, software and medicine. The first is scheduled to start next year. Each degree is expected to take up to four years to complete with final examinations being held in Oxford or in British Council offices overseas.

Is your mobile giving you a real ear-bashing?

ON A recent visit to Cambridge, I bumped into a famous academic friend who was marching purposefully down the street, talking loudly to himself. A psychologist, Peter has always been considered somewhat eccentric. However, talking to oneself in public is not an accepted behaviour; even amongst our top dons.

On a closer inspection, it transpired that he was simply using an earphone extension to his mobile phone and a mini-microphone. I've only ever seen people with hearing deficiencies use earphones, so it made me feel temporarily depressed that I thought that Peter was going deaf at the tender age of 39. Must have been something to do with the students being noisier these days, I thought to myself. It turned out that he was working on a study of the relationship between exposure to electromagnetic fields in mobile phones and the occurrence of brain tumors. This is a study run in response to a European Commission expert group that has recommended further

research on long-term effects of telecommunications devices.

Although his research is not yet complete, what he discovered during the planning stage was enough to make him rush to a mobile phone store and buy an earphone set. The problem is affecting an increasing number of people since the use of mobile phones have soared among young and old, rich and poor alike. And judging by the share prices of Nokia and Ericsson, it must be a huge growth industry. We are all trying to become more efficient in our daily struggles, and mobiles allow improved management of time. Since walking and talking somehow qualify as multi-tasking, it also makes us feel more efficient. But this gain of a few minutes per day may also cost you a few years of your life, and a line on your tombstone: "A mobile phone user: Lived an efficient but short life."

The problem with the current state of knowledge on SAR (Specific Absorption Rate), which is used to measure the permissible heat absorption rate for humans, is that we have radically changed the pattern of using the mobiles since the original standards were set back in 1992. Then, the talk time was horrendously expensive, and even the most dedicated yuppies were only using the phones for 10-15 seconds at a time, enough to bark "huy" or "sell".

Over the last few years, the Internet and e-mail have driven up use of mobile phones, due to introduction of voice-to-e-mail. The ability to call to another phone and leave a message that then gets converted into e-mail and sent to people as text is very handy if the issue you are briefing them on is complex.

Many people also use a mail-to-voice service. I call my answerphone number and pick up e-mail messages in the form of voice, converted from text from my e-mail inbox. We have also started using three-way calling facility, as my normal office phone doesn't afford me that luxury and therefore all the

almost all of the research conducted so far on the safety standards for electromagnetic power density in mobile phones has been done with acute exposure, not chronic. That means the poor rats and mice exposed to mobile phone radiation had their brains fried consistently over 24 hours.

What we are looking at today is a chronic use - a number of hours every day for a prolonged period of many months. Such chronic use of mobiles is a lot harder to study, not least because trying to get money for any long-term research in these days of funding shortages is an almost impossible task. Since it is the same issue that gets exposure daily, it is likely that we may experience cumulative effects resulting in damage to the tissue. What are the risks? Multiple, as even the acute-use studies showed mobile phone radiation may encourage and accelerate the growth of pre-cancerous and cancerous cells. Studies so far have not excluded the possibility of

conference calls are done on mobiles. All together, these services have increased my use of the mobile phone by around two to three hours per day, every day, particularly when I work outside of the office. And here comes the crux of the matter -



EVA PASCOE

What Peter discovered was enough to make him rush out to a mobile phone shop and buy an earphone set

radiation causing indirect damage to DNA, according to the Single Cell Gel (SCG) Expert Panel. Other studies list possible damage to blood-brain barrier, neurotransmitter activity damage and effects on metabolism. Ole Svane, a Danish physician, wrote a report for the European Commission raising the issue of damage to the sensitive tissue in the ears, leading to nerve damage (www.microwavenews.com/FDA_Workshop_Abstracts.html).

Current mobile phone safety standards are based on patterns of mobile phone use that predate clever things like three-way conferencing which may go on for several hours. They also don't take into consideration the shift in gender use of mobile phones. Originally, male users were on average using their mobiles for less than a minute per conversation. As anybody who has a teenage daughter will tell you, women spend on the average 20-35 minutes per telephone conversation. So the question to be asked is

the appropriateness of standards issued in 1992 to today's mobile phone usage patterns. Since acute and chronic use result in a radically different heat absorption into the brain tissue, we must push the hugely powerful mobile phone lobby to come clean and give us more up-to-date figures and stricter controls. Since many research papers on the safety of mobile phones are conducted on behalf of the mobile phone companies, and not objective bodies, it is important to press the Government to run independent studies that take into consideration that the use of mobiles is a moving target. What was safe yesterday is not necessarily going to extrapolate for our mobile phone use of today.

Meanwhile, get that earphone, keep the time of your conversation down to 10 seconds, or even better, get a beeper. All these things will be good for your wallet, not just your brain. Mail me with your experiences with mobile phone use to eva@never.com



A queue at the airport may be the least of your worries if companies start selling information about where, and when, you are travelling

Edward Webb

Surfing with data sharks

Online travel transactions are creating a market in consumer data. By Paul Lavin

USING THE Internet to explore holiday and business travel might seem appealing, but when you fill in a questionnaire online in order to obtain flight or hotel information, do you know where your personal details are going? To an airline or hotel chain, you hope. To thieves compiling a list of vacant homes, you hope not.

Sabre Group Holdings, the company that handles reservations for more than 50 airlines and travel agents at 40,000 locations, is building a data warehouse project intended to provide the airline and other industries with a treasure trove of passenger information.

By knowing who is flying where, when and in what class, Sabre could sell the data to airlines and other related businesses, such as hotels, car hire companies, and travel insurance firms. "Think about how much companies would pay for names of people who have reservations to go to specific places at specific dates and times," says Sabre CEO Michael Durham.

However, one company's treasure trove may be another's blackest pit of privacy invasion. The collection and dissemination of personal information online can evade even the most stringent data protection laws, and most data protection schemes are not noted for having long arms or sharp teeth.

Wayne Eckerson, vice-president of technology services at the Data Warehouse Institute in Gaithersburg, Maryland, says: "A lot of companies are discovering, if they own the transactions, it's just a wealth of data sitting there... It's a potential gold mine."

And Sabre isn't the only online travel company with Big Brotherish inclinations. At the US Department of Commerce's recent public meeting on Internet Privacy, Reid Detton, executive director of the Interactive Travel Services Association, said that the major airlines are pressuring online travel agencies to collect information.

They are being pushed into agreements that would require the travel agents to monitor all visitors to their websites and pass the data along to the airlines. This includes requiring all visitors to register with name, address and passport number before they even decide to purchase a ticket.

"This step is alarming because agents have little choice but to comply with a demand from their suppliers," says Mr Detton. "The airlines themselves have been moving aggressively to capture passenger traffic on their proprietary websites."

The US government and the European Union are already looking at

the erosion of privacy by commercial organisations on the Internet. The US Commerce Secretary, William M Daley, warned attendees at a recent privacy summit that if the private sector wouldn't ensure online privacy for consumers then the US government would step in. "Articulating principles isn't adequate," Mr Daley said. "There have to be

Most data protection schemes are not noted for having long arms or sharp teeth

some meaningful consequences to companies that don't comply."

While Mr Daley's concern for the American consumer is comforting, the cross-border nature of Internet commerce may make a fool out of any country or industry organisation like the Online Privacy Alliance attempting to set standards of behaviour or impose sanctions for non-compliance.

The Alliance is an international group of over 50 companies and business associations that have advanced a proposal to self-regulate

online privacy. They have asked the US government to postpone any legislative action until after September to further refine their plans.

"There has to be a way to enforce this that the consumer can trust, or this won't work," Mr Daley says. "If self-regulation doesn't work, we will have to consider other options."

Again it appears that Europe, birthplace of the World Wide Web, may have something to teach the Americans, who have led in the deployment of Internet commerce. Ira Magaziner, President Clinton's senior Internet adviser, told a recent Royal Institute of International Affairs conference in London that the United States may have to adopt a European approach to regulating electronic commerce if self-regulation fails.

"The US cares no less about privacy protection or protection for consumers and citizens in society than government officials in Brussels," he said. "But that doesn't mean we make ourselves feel better by passing a thousand pages of regulations and say: 'Great, we protected the consumer' because if in the process we have slowed down the economic growth and the economic potential [of the Internet], we have hurt our citizens."

The Data Protection Act in Britain and new regulations from

Brussels shield UK and EU citizens from unannounced collection and dissemination of personal information. However, the laws are often criticised as having no teeth - there are few prosecutions and the penalties seem weak compared with the widespread threat to personal privacy.

If the small print at the bottom of a Web page informs the person that "information is being collected and may be used by other organisations with related products and services", the law is complied with and many consumers may not feel threatened enough to withhold information.

Web users may not be on their guard, especially if they are allowed personalised access to information valuable to them (like hotel listings or flight schedules) in return for their details. Data protection regulations are further stymied by the cross-border nature of the Internet. If an unprincipled information collector is remote from the reach of the UK or European law enforcement, the e-consumers are on their own.

Right now, the line of defence for a consumer who wants to protect their privacy on line is at their keyboard. If you don't surrender your personal information, it can't be misused. This may mean giving up some of the utility of the Internet, but until protection schemes are in place, let the surfer beware.

The chip that puts people's privacy at risk

Detailed personal information may soon be stored on smart cards, but could this lead to exploitation? By Mark Vernon

IN A TYPICAL house today 40 microprocessors are whirring away. But within five years the number is set to rise to as much as 500, running everything from security systems to climate control.

Most of them will control household devices but a small percentage could be used to monitor and transmit personal data. So should we regard this profusion with concern, as an intrusion on our privacy?

Consider the Personal Area Network. The PAN allows information to be passed from one electronic device to another using the human body as a conduit. The current prototype from IBM allows two people to exchange a business card by shaking hands.

Tim Zimmerman has been working on the PAN since 1992 and recognises that the biggest problem with the development is security. "You grab any pay phone and dial it as if it were your home phone, and the calling card number automatically goes across your body into the phone."

"Extend that idea to ATM machines. Walk by one, push the 'give me \$100' button, and out it pops. That is great. But when you bump into someone, you don't want to hand them your wallet. So, we've encrypted the data. If I bump into you, I just get alphabet soup, all these random zeros and ones."

The encryption argument is a powerful one as it is far more secure than any privacy system previously known to man.

So what about another manifestation of embedded chips - the smart card? These will proliferate too. Dataquest reckons that annual production levels will hit 1.32 billion by 2001. But will these represent a threat? One recent product developed in the US seems to point in exactly the opposite direction.

Mark Basile is the inventor of the KidzKard. His invention emerged as the result of a family crisis. His child was rushed to the ER close to dying from asthma, and nothing could be done until information about his allergies was disclosed. The child recovered but it was a fright.

In response Basile envisioned a small device to carry medical data - the KidzKard - which is now being issued in New York City. "I researched some of the currently available emergency cards for kids," recalls Basile. "Not only were those

products lacking in necessary information, but they seemed to actually propose a security threat, since a criminal could use information from a lost or stolen card to exploit a child."

Security technology from Computer Associates, accessible by the hospital over the Internet, was the solution to that problem.

One of the most important developments, because it increases the return on investment, is the ability of chips to perform multiple functions. The power of the technology is now such that one centimetre square piece of silicon essentially acts as a whole computer.

The concern stems from the ready flow of information that might result. It seems unlikely that the insurance company will be able to read medical records from the same card.

But the contemporary philosopher of the Information Age, Manuel Castells says: "The real issue is somewhere else: it is in the gathering of information on individuals by business firms, and organisations of all kinds, and in the creation of a market for this information."

"The credit card, more than the ID card, is giving away privacy. This is the instrument through which people's lives can be profiled, analysed, and targeted for marketing (or blackmailing) purposes."

Research from Mori, carried out for chip manufacturer Motorola, indicates that the British public is unconcerned about these developments. Seventy per cent agree that a smart card as a driving licence is acceptable. This rate only falls to 56 per cent when the information is personally sensitive. But 76 per cent claim to know little about the technology.

The Government is beginning to get wised up to these issues. The new data protection bill which will come before the Commons has had a favourable reception from Elizabeth Franks, the Data Protection Registrar for example.

"Though I have a few concerns about the Bill in its current form, I believe that overall it provides an excellent framework for seeking to achieve the right balance between individual's entitlement to privacy in the handling of information about them and the information users' needs in processing information to provide the services which individuals require," she says.

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES LICENCE
LICENSING ACT 1964
COURT: The Magistrates' Court,
1 Queen Victoria Street,
London EC4A 3DF

HEARING DATE: Thursday
20 August 1998 at 10.30am
PREMISES: Chis Gizard, 14
Trinity Square, London EC3
APPLICANT: John Lederer
ADDRESS: 272 Little Road,
Fulham, London SW6 7PX
TRADE OR CALLING:
Operations Director

TAKE NOTICE that the Applicant
intends to apply to the Licensing
Sessions for the said Division to be
held at the place and time shown
above for the personal grant to him
of a Justices' Licence
authorising him to sell by retail
mineralising liquor of all descriptions
for consumption on or off the above
premises.
DATED: 15 July 1998
PAMNER & CO
Barnes House, 154 Fleet Street,
London EC4A 3DF
Solicitors and Authorised Agents for
and on behalf of the said Applicant

CONSTABLE GROUP PLC
Formerly Metrol
Technology Plc
The Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant
to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act
1986, that a meeting of the creditors
of Constable Group plc will be held
at 1 & 2 Raymond Buildings, Gray's
Inn, London, WC1R 5BZ, on Friday
the 21st day of July 1998 at 10.30
am, for the purposes provided for in
Sections 98, 100 and 101 of the
Insolvency Act 1986.
A list of the names and addresses of
the company's creditors will be available
for inspection, free of charge, at the
above named Company at its registered
office during business hours on the 20th
and 21st days of July 1998 at the
office of BN Jordan, 11, 12 & 13
Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn,
London WC1R 5BZ.
The meeting may be requested to
consider a resolution approving to the
basis of the Liquidator's remuneration.
To assist creditors in making an
informed decision, a copy of the
creditors' guide to Liquidators' fees as
detailed in the Society of
Professional Liquidators' Statement of
Insolvency Practice No 9 is available.
Dated this 24th day of June 1998
By Order of the Board
D Westrich, Director

BARONMOUNT LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant
to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986
that a meeting of the Creditors of the
above named Company will be held at
Ramsay House, 351 Finsbury Road,
London EC2A 4DU on Thursday
the 20th day of July 1998 at 11.00am
for the purposes mentioned under
Section 98, 100 and 101 of the said
Act
6 THAMM
Director

No. 003355 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF
JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
M C COAL SALES
COMPANY LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
the Order of the High Court of
Justice, Chancery Division dated 8
July 1998, confirming the
appointment of the above named
Company was registered by the
Registrar of Companies on 16th
July 1998.
Dated 16th July 1998
Tie and Lewis
32 Farnborough Street
London EC4A 4EA
Ref: THM
Solicitors for the Company

Notice of Appointment of
Liquidator
Pursuant to Section 109 of
the Insolvency Act 1986

INTERNATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP
MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that Malcolm
Cohen of 800 Stuyvesant, 8
Baker Street, London W1M 1DA
and Sean Seng Tan of K S Tan and
Co., 10/12 New College Parade,
Finsbury Road, London EC2A 4DU
has been appointed Liquidator of
the above named Company by the
Court on the 15/7/98
Dated 15/7/98

Notice of Appointment of
Liquidator
Pursuant to Section 109 of
the Insolvency Act 1986

THE MALL CORPORATE
EVENTS LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that Malcolm
Cohen of 800 Stuyvesant, 8
Baker Street, London W1M 1DA
and Sean Seng Tan of K S Tan and
Co., 10/12 New College Parade,
Finsbury Road, London EC2A 4DU
has been appointed Liquidator of
the above named Company by the
Court on the 15/7/98
Dated 15/7/98

Charities
LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND
London Street Collection, 25 April
1998. Raised £32,505.98.

Unusual Gifts
A NEWSPAPER for that special
date, 1942-1998, most times avail-
able. Ideal birthday gift. Rummage
bar when Tel: 0171-588 6222. Or
CALL FREE 0800 520 000

Public Notices

INVITATION

Management Training & Development Partnership(s)

The ES is an Executive Agency of the Department for Education and Employment delivering its service through over 1,000 Job Centres.

We are seeking an organisation/organisations to work with us in designing, developing and delivering a range of internal manager development interventions.

Our aim is that the selected organisation(s) will work with us in the spirit of partnership to develop the effectiveness and contribution of ES managers towards sustainable long term business improvement.

In the first instance the Manager Development partnership will focus on helping ES managers lead and influence people on how they interact with clients, employers, colleagues and partners in the delivery of services to unemployed people. It is vital that this phase builds on the defined framework of ES Values which are centred on Achievement; People; Service; Partnership and Quality.

After this initial phase it is our intention to extend the partnership into a wider range of manager development activities. The scope of this may include working with us to develop accredited qualification routes which complement and extend on our current manager training provision.

The partner(s) will work in conjunction with the existing training and development teams. An in house Head Office based team delivers to middle and Senior Management at various locations around the Country, and a regional network of trainers delivers to junior managers at training centres in London, Bristol, Cardiff, Nottingham, Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle, Edinburgh & Manchester. Partners will be expected to deliver training in these locations and/or at other sites.

Our current provision is focused directly on helping ES meet its annual performance targets whilst at the same time meeting the individual development needs of some 6000 managers. Our products have been devised to offer as wide a range of available learning opportunities as possible but give priority to products that support the ES labour market agenda.

Organisations who are interested in working with us are invited to express their interest now. An information pack will then be issued which will contain further details on the Values framework and will include a Supplier Appraisal Questionnaire. The responses to the questionnaire will be used to enable ES to draw up a shortlist of companies to be invited to tender. Any subsequent contract shall be for up to 3 years with an option to extend for up to a further 2 years. ES expects delivery of the initial phase to start in November 1998.

Expressions of interest should be made to Steve Heath (see below for address) no later than 14th August 1998. Any Supplier Appraisal Questionnaires should be returned no later than 4th September 1998. ANY LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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WEB SITES

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Advances in biotechnology mean that when you pick up a pineapple and see a copyright symbol on the label, you can't be sure whether the symbol refers to the label's text and design or if it's the fruit's intellectual property rights being asserted. This information-rich site keeps an eye on such matters. Its concerns are maintaining biodiversity, particularly in the face of agribusiness and genetic engineering.

See what this site has to say about the US patents granted for "terminator" genetic technology - which means that farmers will end up buying seed that produces only plants with sterile seed, thus ensuring they cannot engage in "unauthorised seed saving".

The Pagan Federation
<http://www.paganfed.demon.co.uk/>

Beltane may be only a memory now, but on Saturday the Celtic festival of Lughnasadh is upon us. A time when pagans celebrate the bounty of the Goddess at the time of the corn harvest. This site is a resource for pagans and the curious. As well as details of festivals, there are sections about different varieties of paganism: Druid, Wiccan, Nordic, Celtic, Eco-magic, cyberpagans and women's spirituality groups. Educating the general public that pagans aren't a bunch of nutters intent on

dancing naked round standing stones at the drop of a witch's hat is likely to be an uphill struggle, but this site dedicated to countering misconceptions about the movement, and securing the rights of Pagans to worship freely and without censure.

Waterstone's Club
<http://www.waterstones.co.uk/club/index.htm>

It has taken a while, but online bookstores are following the

Pagans aren't a bunch of nutters intent on dancing naked round standing stones

lead of American real-life bookstores and becoming more than places to buy books. Interactivity is the key. With a Java-enabled browser you can participate in online debates, "The Future Of The Body" and "The Future Of The Environment" have already taken place, more are planned. Book search for out of print titles is available, as is an online magazine that discusses contemporary books. Chat rooms are online so visitors can discuss specific books - currently *The Accidental Tourist* by Anne Tyler and *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt. To use the site you

have to register but this is free.

Ability Net
<http://www.abilitynet.co.uk/>

Using a mouse and keyboard can be frustrating enough for those with perfect eyesight and full use of their hands and limbs. Those with disabilities can face being excluded altogether from the potential benefits of information technology. This charity campaigns for people to be included. It practices what it preaches by using different interfaces on its own pages to demonstrate that sites can easily and simply be made accessible to the disabled without sacrificing all notions of graphic design. Included is contact details for special software to help the disabled maximise their use the Net.

geekgirl
<http://www.geekgirl.com.au/geekgirl/014july/>

The current issue of "the world's first cyberfem magazine" welcomes its readers to the world of mas.hap an ms.take. Best of all is the revolutionary haiku page, where some suggestions are posted as to how computer error messages could benefit from being rendered in haiku. Who needs "404: not found" or "no DTP entry" when a Web page has been deleted from a remote server when you could have "You step in the stream/but the water has moved on/This page is not here."

When his computer went wrong, William Hartston did the obvious thing: he called the company's friendly helpline

Together we can make it work (for a second)

Look at any list of life's most stressful events - divorce, moving house, death of a close relative - and you will see that they all omit the single most stressful experience of all: a sick Dell computer.

The good thing about Dell is their ever-helpful helpline. So when my machine started delivering a variety of Schwarzenegger-like messages ("fatal error - this application will now be terminated"), I rang their Freephone number. In theory, what then happens is that a pleasant Irish voice takes your case history and prescribes a remedy. In practice, what happens is that a recorded message tells you that everyone is too busy to talk to you at the moment and please hold and someone will be with you in a moment and thank you for your patience and thank you for continuing to hold and I'm sorry this is the third time you've heard this message and the same tinky music.

Anyway, on day two, I finally got through to someone who gently took me through some changes in settings which would clear up the problem. But because the problem was intermittent I didn't know that it hadn't worked until a quarter of an hour later, when it all collapsed again. I rang back, but the recorded message told me that the helpline was now closed and could I ring back

between 8am and 8pm. The next day, I had a long session with a different Irish voice which took me patiently through all sorts of tinkering until, after about 40 minutes, the line went dead. I called back, but the helpline was now closed and could I ring back between 8am and 8pm?

I rang around seven the following evening, when yet another pleasant Irish voice told me that I would have to reload Windows. She faxed me several pages explaining how to do it all, but I had to abandon my sick computer to go to work. In the evening, I spent a dreary hour following the instructions. In the middle of the reload, the machine seized up. I repeated the operation a couple of times and finally got it working again. For about 10 minutes. Then I started getting the same registry-error and Explorer-error and fatal-error and missing-file and corrupt-file messages as before, plus a few new ones. Making a mental note to give the Dell helpline a ring in the morning, I went to bed.

The next piece of advice was to reformat my hard disk. Fortunately, the beast was still functioning well enough for me to copy everything on to a collection of about two-dozen floppies, then I issued the format command and said "yes" when it asked whether I was really sure that was what I wanted to do. I tried to reload the operating system, but started getting error messages



'The engineer rang Unisys. I rang Dell. Dell rang Unisys. Unisys rang Wang. I rang Unisys. And everybody promised to phone me back within an hour.' William Hartston spent three weeks on the telephone trying to get someone to sort out his computer

Nicola Kurtz

before I had finished. Two reformat later, I was back in business. But when I tried to load MS Office, fatal errors started happening again.

By that stage, I was beginning to suspect a hardware fault, so I rang Dell again. After holding for half-an-hour of music and thank-you-for-holding messages, I was answered by an American voice which asked for my machine's tag number, then asked where I was calling from. When I said London, he said that I had got through to the American office and he couldn't help me, I needed to talk to someone in Europe. By then, it was after 8pm so I had to leave it until morning.

I had had enough of quick fixes that didn't work, so the next time I got through, I asked them to send an engineer round and I would pay the necessary. "We can't do that until you've run the diagnostics disk," they said. But I didn't have a diagnostics disk, so they sent me one, which took another two days.

When it failed to detect any errors, I rang them and begged for an engineer. They said they would get a senior technician to phone me back within 48 hours. Two days later, nobody had rung back. I asked to speak to Customer Services.

"What is the nature of your problem?" I was asked. "I have been trying to get my computer fixed for the last three weeks and I want to talk to someone who can do something about it," I said. "I'll put you through to technical support," she said and I was back with the people I had been talking to for three weeks. When one of them passed me back to Customer Services, phase two of the saga began.

Three weeks, she agreed, was too long for a man to be expected to survive without a computer. Either she or someone else, whose name she gave me, would ring me back later that day to arrange a visit by an engineer. By 6.30pm, nobody had called, so I rang back and asked to

speak to the name she had given me. He was on a call, so I left a message on his voice mail. I rang again twice the next day, and finally he phoned around teatime - his voice mail had been out of order. "We'll have an engineer with you on Monday," he said, then added, "Oh, it's too late now to get that arranged. It'll be Tuesday morning." Given the choice between a guaranteed 48-hour on-site repair and a four-day pick-up-and-return, I opted for the (more expensive) former. I wanted it fixed.

On Monday, they rang to arrange to take the computer away for repair. They also sent an invoice for the on-site repair. Three phone calls later, I discovered that they had two separate call-outs for my repair: one on-site, one pick-up-and-return. When the engineer called, he discovered that they had misdiagnosed the fault so he had the wrong spare part. He was from Unisys, to whom Dell apparently subcontract their repair

work, but he couldn't get through to the Unisys desk to order the correct spare part. Unisys, incidentally, get their spare parts from Wang.

So we lost another day while the spare part was being reordered. Another appointment was made, but when the engineer called at his depot to pick up the part, he was told they had sent it to Luton by mistake. He would have to drive to Luton the next morning to pick it up. When he got to Luton, it wasn't there.

Meanwhile, I managed to get through to Dell to bring them up to date. With the guaranteed 48-hour repair entering its 10th day, they agreed not to charge me for it. (Indeed, up to that point, debiting my Access card was the only thing they had done promptly and efficiently.)

Back from Luton, my engineer was still trying to get through to Unisys and Wang to get the right part. Two boxes were delivered to my house the next day, and the engineer returned to complete the job the day

after. But the boxes contained the same wrong spare parts as he had brought with him the first time. He rang Unisys. I rang Dell. Dell rang Unisys. Unisys rang Wang. I rang Unisys. And everybody promised to phone me back within an hour. The rest of that day, I left increasingly tetchy messages on a variety of voice mails. Finally, the right spare parts were delivered, and an engineer arrived at 7pm to install them.

A senior person at Dell rang to apologise for the whole affair and asked what they could do to make amends. "Anything, from a crate of champagne to a state-of-the-art laptop would be most appreciated," I said. A few days later, they rang to tell me that they had decided to extend my warranty an extra year.

My system is now working again, apart from some stuttering on the sound and video system, but I'm sure that is not a serious problem. I must give the Dell helpline a ring. They'll be able to sort it out.

Superior Web graphics in a Flash

A FEW weeks back I detailed some of the shortcomings of GIF and JPEG graphics and I also hinted at a possible alternative to these cumbersome file formats: Flash (<http://www.independent.co.uk/net/980639ne/story4.html>).

Unlike GIF and JPEG, which describe graphics as bitmaps, Flash uses a vector graphics format. Instead of treating each pixel in the graphic as an individual dot - à la bitmaps - vector graphics describe the lines, shapes, and solid areas that make up a graphic.

For instance, if you draw a horizontal line and save it as a bitmap graphic, the graphic file records every point from start to finish. Conversely, a vector graphic would simply record the starting and stopping point and let the computer fill in the rest of the information. If the line is curved, a vector graphic mathematically records the shape of that curve.

The result is that vector graphic files take a lot less space to record since they do not record every pixel.

The other great advantage of using vector graphics is that you can change them quickly and easily. Each shape can be controlled and altered independent of other shapes in the graphic surrounding it; the computer simply recalculates the mathematical functions used to describe each shape.

So why doesn't the Web use vector graphics? The answer is that, until recently, vector graphics presented a variety of problems.

Firstly, although vector graphic file sizes are smaller than similar bitmap files, they take more computer processing power to actually display because the computer has to calculate all the shapes of which they are

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

Flash allows the use of vector graphics without most of the file format's shortcomings

comprised. Slower computers therefore take longer to render them on the screen.

It was also believed that vector graphics could never take the place of bitmap graphics for representing complex images such as photographs.

Vector graphics traditionally displayed poorly on a cathode ray tube screen because they could not be anti-aliased (a process used to give a smooth appearance to a graphic's edge). Their borders were jagged, which, visually speaking, was rather unappealing.

There was no standard format for vector graphics like there is for bitmap graphics. Instead, each vector program (Illustrator, Freehand, and Corel Draw being the most popular) had its own way of saving vector files.

Then came Flash from Macromedia, and now Web design may never be the same again.

Flash delivers all of the advantages of vector graphics without most of

the file format's shortcomings.

The major benefits of using Flash on the Web are as follows:

- Quality vector graphics can be anti-aliased on the fly, providing those nice clean edges.
- Compact graphic files can be created that are optimized for Internet delivery.
- Since vector graphics can be scaled without any loss of graphic quality, the same small file can be scaled to display in a large or small area as necessary without increasing the file size.
- Flash files can even include JPEG or PNG-formatted bitmap graphics to render more complex images.

Flash also includes a lot of other features that make it of interest to Web designers wanting to add spice to their websites.

There is a robust graphic user interface that allows the designer to:

- include interactive elements and hypertext links, just like on a Web page;
- animate vector graphics (this beats GIF animation hands down - not only are the file sizes smaller but also they can be changed as easily as any vector graphic);
- script a Flash file with mouse events that react to the visitor's actions, creating multimedia Web interfaces; and
- add sound, transparencies and colour blends.

Basically, Flash files can deliver full-scale multimedia over the Web. However, I have avoided recommending Flash, or even using it, until recently. My policy has always been that the Web should be open to anyone without having to download special software or plug-ins.

So why the change in heart?

Last April, Macromedia made several

announcements that may well position this technology at the forefront of Web development tools.

Firstly, they announced that Netscape would be including the Flash plug-in pre-loaded with future Navigator browser releases (and where Netscape leads can Microsoft be far behind?).

Secondly, Macromedia has made Flash an open standard and is campaigning with the World Wide Web Consortium to make Flash a standard file format for the Internet. If this proposal is accepted, it will mean that anyone can create tools and software to develop Flash files.

Yet, despite all of the cool things that Flash can do, I'm still not 100% sold.

Even if everyone had the Flash plug-in, which they don't, and even if everyone had a computer fast enough to render vector animations smoothly (you need at least 150MHz), you still have to shell out \$299 for the software needed to develop in the Flash format.

The Web was founded on the idea that anyone could write an HTML file without the need to buy expensive software; an ideology that still holds true today.

DHTML - one alternative to Flash - may not offer the same bells and whistles and may be trickier to use, but anyone with a text editor can create cool Web pages by using it.

Still, decide for yourself. Swing by the Macromedia site (<http://www.macromedia.com>) and pick up the latest Flash plug-in (Flash 3), then check out Bullseye Art (<http://www.bullseyeart.com>) and Gabocorp Imaging (<http://www.gabocorp.com>) - two sites that show off what Flash can do.

Love Flash? Hate Flash? Let Jason Cranford Teague know what you think at indy_webdesign@mindspring.com

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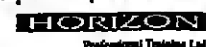
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Child Prodigies

(and talented adults)

Working at digitalpeople is a unique experience. We're young, shit-hot and have an impressive blue-chip client list that our older IT competitors would kill for. We have made our name developing some awesomely innovative business solutions for multinationals using emerging internet technologies.

Enough of the boring stuff. The bottom line is that corporate computing is changing and moving incredibly fast, so we're in the market for a couple of child prodigies and the occasional talented adult to push these technologies to their limits.

We obviously assume you're intelligent and have loads of enthusiasm. It would also be quite helpful if you could back this natural intelligence with a good degree, relevant experience in developing systems for large organisations, and specific knowledge of the integration of internet technology with corporate computing.

Analyst Programmers and Team Leaders (£18-£35k)

Analyst Programmers must not play football, skateboard, or attempt to communicate with Pizza Hut using a Microsoft Agent, when John is on the phone. He is notoriously easy to agitate, and ferocious once roused. And never, ever, no matter how much he begs or pleads, feed David after midnight.

You must also want to join or lead a team of really talented young programmers developing cutting edge intranet and internet systems. You will demonstrate some expertise in any or all of the following: relational databases, SQL, Visual Basic 4/5, Microsoft Internet Technologies (IIS, ASP) and Component Object Model (COM, DCOM, Transaction Server), and have a good eye for design.

Please send your attitude and CV to: Jane van Zyl,
Email: jane@digitalpeople.com • URL: www.digitalpeople.com
No Agencies need apply

epsilon 

"Innovative . . . Create . . . Succeed"

Senior Analyst/Programmers
Analyst/Programmers

Peterborough

Epsilon . . . the company

Epsilon develops innovative retail store software products using leading-edge software technologies. The company has recently been created by an established team of professionals with a highly successful international track record in retail IT. With strong financial backing, Epsilon works in partnership with renowned business and technology organisations on a global basis.

Epsilon . . . the technology

Our software products are developed using Microsoft Visual C++ for use in business-critical solutions on Windows NT and Windows CE platforms. We apply structured development techniques to our object-orientated software design and development.

Epsilon . . . the positions

We are looking to recruit Senior Analyst/Programmers and Analyst/Programmers. If you are a graduate with a minimum of 12 months software development experience, we would like to hear from you. Knowledge of C and C++ is preferred, though not essential as cross-training will be provided for suitable candidates. Recent graduates with relevant degrees may apply as we also have vacancies at this level.

Epsilon . . . the offer

Excellent salaries will be offered to high calibre candidates who wish to join us at our city centre offices in Peterborough. Individuals who are able to demonstrate an aptitude for management will be rapidly promoted into project team leadership roles. The benefits of joining this progressive company at this formative stage are evident.

Epsilon . . . how to apply

If you are a software development professional who is interested in joining Epsilon then please send your cv with a letter, quoting reference IP0798 to Epsilon Technology Solutions Limited, First Floor Suite, Peterscourt, City Road, Peterborough PE1 1SA.

APPOINTMENTS DIARY

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Engineering

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Media, Marketing,
Sales

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Finance, Legal,
Secretarial

Thursday
Education, Graduate

Sunday
Public General



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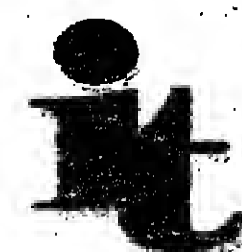
PERMANENT

SD/MM	International	Logo Partner	1.5yrs exp+	£70K+
WM	EU Base International	Logo Partner	1 yr exp+	£70K+
ABAP	Brussels	Consultancy	1 yr exp+	£45K+
PM	Switzerland	Hardware Partner	1 yr exp+	£75K+
FI/CO	Norway	Consultancy	2yrs exp+	£65K+
PP	Belgium/Holland	Logo Partner	6mths exp+	£50K+
BASIS	Europe	Logo Partner	6mths exp+	£60K+
FI/CO	UK/USA/Asia	Consultancy	1.5yrs exp+	£80K+

CONTRACT

ABAP	Interfacer	2yrs exp	Belgium	Logo Partner	6mths
ABAP	Catts Tool	18mths exp	Holland	Logo Partner	6mths
SD	Consultant	18mths exp	Brussels	Consultancy	3mths+
SD	Certified Consultant	2yrs exp	Germany	Manufacturing	6mths
SD/MM	Consultant	18mths exp	Paris	Logo Partner	6mths
ABAP	Dutch Speaking	18mths exp	Holland	Consultancy	6mths+
MM/PP	Consultant	18mths exp	France	Consultancy	6mths+

* URGENTLY REQUIRED DUTCH/FRENCH SPEAKERS WITH LOGISTICS *



LINK LTD

SAP PROJECT RESOURCING

Contact Shane Webb or Gurjit Sandhu Quoting Ref: IND-318 at
IT Link Ltd, Chiltern House, 24-30 King Street, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD1 8BP.
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Career opportunities with the acknowledged authority in global Systems/Software Development

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Our client is acknowledged as being one of the most innovative and pioneering of all independent consultancies and software developers. Having established such a reputation, its clients include some of the world's most pioneering organisations and government departments.

The complexity of its work, together with the breadth and diversity of the market sectors it serves, combine to make this a technically stimulating and intellectually demanding environment. It now seeks all levels of IT professionals, from Programmer Analysts, Systems Designers and Software Developers, through to Project Managers and Consultants, to join teams of some of the IT industry's most exciting talent. You will enjoy:

- Considerable variety, with unlimited opportunity to broaden your professional and technical skills.
 - A high level of visibility and considerable influence over the strategic direction of some of the industry's most important projects.
 - The opportunity to explore a wide variety of career paths, define your own goals and determine your own future.
 - A remuneration and benefits package, designed to attract and retain the highest quality IT professionals.
- This is no place for anyone who is not totally committed to challenging convention and redefining industry standards. However, if you are a serious IT Professional with a genuine desire to pioneer at the leading edge, there will be few organisations who can rival these opportunities. Although the positions are predominantly throughout the South East of England, opportunities also exist throughout the UK and Europe.

If you would like to be considered for any of the above positions, please send your CV and current salary details to Sue Ward, PW Search & Selection, PO Box 18081, London EC2Y 8PE. Fax: 0171-588 2920. Email: pws@easytel.co.uk

PW
Selection Services

To advertise in the Network section please call Dave Hague
on 0171 293 2691 or Gemma Jamieson on 0171 293 2312.

I.T. Appointments also appear in the
Smart Moves

NEW FILMS

THE GINGERBREAD MAN (15)

Director: Robert Altman
Starring: Kenneth Branagh, Embeth Davidtz
Kenneth Branagh, sporting a plausible drawl and implausible ginger beard, plays Rick Magruder, a cocky little jack rabbit of an adulterous attorney in Robert Altman's disappointing take on the John Grisham novel. He celebrates his victory in a case against the cops by spending the night with a waitress (Davidtz), but soon gets drawn deeper into her world when she asks for protection from her demented father (Robert Duvall), and his gang of survivalist half-dodgers. CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Barbican Screen, Odeon (Camden Town, Kensington, Marble Arch, Swiss Cottage), UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

Boyd Tonkin

THE CASTLE (15)

Director: Michael Caton, Anne Tenney
See The Independent Recommends, right. CW: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon (Kensington, Swiss Cottage), UCI Whiteleys, Virgin (Fulham Road, Trocadero)

DANCE OF THE WIND (U)

Director: Rajan Khosla
Starring: Kiti Gidwani, Bhavesh Gosain
Indian TV star Kiti Gidwani plays Pallavi, a singer of Hindustani classical music who dries up on stage following the death of her mother. The delicate music and stately camerawork help build a hypnotic atmosphere as Pallavi tries to come to terms with her bereavement and regain her voice. CW: Renoir

HANA-BI (18)

Director: Takeshi Kitano
Starring: Takeshi Kitano, Ren Osugi
A violent yet elegant portrait of a brutal Japanese policeman pushed over the edge by his traumatic personal life. Hardly a thriller, it's more concerned with existential crisis than the nuts and bolts of the climactic bank robbery. CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

LA GRANDE ILLUSION (U)

Director: Jean Renoir
Starring: Jean Gabin, Pierre Fresnay
Re-issued in a restored print, Renoir's tender 1937 classic has WWI POW Pierre Fresnay finding he has more in common with his courteous German captor, Erich Von Stroheim, than his proletarian comrades. CW: Screen on the Hill

THE DAYTRIPPERS (15)

Director: Greg Mottola
Starring: Hops Davis, Stanley Tucci
Worried that her publisher husband (Tucci) may be having an affair, Eliza (Davis) confides in her parents, only to find that the whole family insists on accompanying her to Manhattan to confront him. Writer-director Mottola charts the tensions of the car journey with unerring wit and unexpected compassion in this hugely accomplished indie gem. CW: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin (Fulham Road, Haymarket)

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)

Director: Frédéric Du Chau
Starring: (the voices of) Gary Oldman, Cary Elwes
The first full-length product of Warner's animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But it has an edge of true weirdness courtesy of Gary Oldman as the renegade knight Ruber who comes on like a Cockney psychopath. CW: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin (Chelsea, Trocadero), Warner Village West End

PAULIE: A PARROT'S TALE (U)

Director: John Roberts
Starring: Tony Shalhoub, Gena Rowlands
Once the muse of indie legend John Cassavetes, Gena Rowlands here works with a talking parrot in this likeable kids' movie - well, that's show-business. CW: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin (Fulham Road, Trocadero), Warner Village West End

John Wrathall

GENERAL RELEASE

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)

Feature-length adventure for the big, jolly dinosaur. Ideal for the undemanding pre-school viewer, an endurance test for anyone else. CW: Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin (Chelsea, Trocadero)

CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal (Meg Ryan). CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon (Kensington, Marble Arch), UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

DARK CITY (15)

Urban nightmare starring Rufus Sewell, William Hurt, Kiefer Sutherland and Richard O'Brien. CW: Rio Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

DEEP IMPACT (12)

A meteor the size of New York is on a collision course with the Earth in this heavy-handed disaster movie. CW: Phoenix Cinema, Plaza

GOOZILLA (PG)

The team which cooked up *Independence Day* is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures. In this case, their touch has deserted them. CW: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon (Camden Town, Kensington, Marble Arch, Swiss Cottage), Plaza, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin (Chelsea, Fulham Road)

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

Twentieth-anniversary reissue of the nostalgic musical. CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Virgin Trocadero

KISS OR KILL (18)

Australian road movie-cum-serial-killer drama. CW: ABC Swiss Centre

KURT & COURTNEY (15)

Documentary investigating the death of Kurt Cobain. CW: Screen on Baker Street, Warner Village West End

LIFE IS ALL YOU GET (DAS LEBEN IST EINE BAUSTELLE) (18)

An original black comedy about a young, possibly HIV-positive Berlin butcher. Director Wolfgang Becker's eye for absurd detail, and a graininess of tone makes this a winning blend of Ken Loach and Bertrand Blier. CW: ABC Swiss Centre, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Minerva

THE LITTLE MERMAID (U)

After years of churning out sub-standard animated features, this sprightly adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story - re-released for the summer holidays - began a string of hits for the newly rejuvenated Disney Studios. Pleasantly jazzy holiday fare. CW: Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon (Kensington, Marble Arch, Swiss Cottage), Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin (Chelsea, Trocadero), Warner Village West End

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)

A warm, subtle comedy starring John Hurt as a reclusive widower who becomes obsessed with a young film actor (Jasno Priestley). The film is essentially concerned with the tentative relationship between art and life, and takes great care in tracing the areas where they overlap. CW: Chelsea Cinema, Metro, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Virgin Haymarket

MAD CITY (15)

A despatching simplistic drama in which Dustin Hoffman's weaselly reporter chances upon a hostage situation in a museum, where ex-employee John Travolta has produced a gun in an effort to get his job back. With Alan Alda, Mira Kirshna and Ted Levine. CW: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin (Fulham Road, Trocadero), Warner Village West End

MIMIC (15)

Ingenious science-fiction-horror fable in which Mira Sorvino plays a doctor who successfully combats a virus by developing a rival cockroach species to wipe out the original disease-carriers. CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MOJO (15)

Mojo is set in a mythologised 1950s Soto. The film never entirely escapes its theatrical roots, but it concentrates on sexual tension in a way that American crime movies generally shy away from. CW: Plaza, Warner Village West End

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds his flatmate Jennifer Aniston's dream of wedding vows and a joint burial plot by being gay. The film is like a primer for viewers who don't think they know what makes gay people tick, and though it can be very funny and charming, it has all the subtlety of a party political broadcast. With Nigel Hawthorne. CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon (Kensington, West End)

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)

Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat. Chow plays a hitman with a conscience who finds himself pursued by both the police and by the mob's 'replacement killers'. First-time director Antoine Fuqua has made a name for himself directing pop promos, but his style is merely second-hand Tony Scott. CW: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Trocadero

SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)

Now too old and creaky to be leaping from moving trains, action man Harrison Ford here tries to reinvent himself as a romantic lead. Ford plays a boozey pilot who crash-lands with a New York magazine editor (Anne Heche) on a remote island. CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon (Kensington, Marble Arch, Swiss Cottage, West End), UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

SLIDING DOORS (15)

Romantic comedy set in the space-time continuum, sending its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, off into two separate realities at the same time. CW: ABC Baker St, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

SLING BLADE (15)

Intelligent and unsetting drama starring writer-director Billy Bob Thornton as Carl, a mentally disabled man who is released into the outside world after spending his life in an institution. Although Thornton is free of the indulgences of most actors who are called upon to portray a disabled character, the film sanitises Carl's personality. CW: ABC Swiss Centre, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (TA'M-E-GULASS) (PG)

Thanks to highly naturalistic performances, the joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or is a hypnotic and ultimately moving experience. CW: ABC Swiss Centre

THE THIEF (15)

In his investigation into the psyche of a six-year-old Russian boy in the aftermath of WWII, writer-director Pavel Chukhrai tries for the unforced poetry pioneered by Louis Malle in *Lacombe Lucien*. Unfortunately, he doesn't quite pull it off. CW: Renoir

TOUCH (15)

Paul Schrader's adaptation of Elmore Leonard's novel turns a breezy satire into a heavy-handed investigation into religious conviction. CW: Plaza

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

Dumb but winning comedy about a wedding singer (Adam Sandler) who falls for a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's engaged to someone else. CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon (Camden Town, Haymarket), UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film John Wrathall

THE STORY of a family's legal battle to save their beloved clapboard bungalow from demolition when the neighbouring airport expands, *The Castle* (left) is a gleeful caricature of Australian working-class life. But where director Rob Sitch and his team of co-writers excel is in capturing the rhythms of family chat, the way Dad's catchphrases ("I'm only stating the truth") and the achingly dull dinner-table exchanges become surreal hilarity when they're repeated enough times.

On selected release
Writer-director Neil LaBute's venomous debut, *In the Company of Men*, drew flak for misogyny on its first release in January - and perhaps not surprisingly since it charts in agonising detail a conspiracy by two white-collar executives, Chad (Aaron Eckhart) and Howard (Matt Malloy), to humiliate a deaf secretary by dating her; then both chucking her on the same day. But, with hindsight, this isn't just a film about male-female relations - it's about all power relations. National Film Theatre, London SE1 (0171-928 3232) 8.40pm

Theatre David Benedict

SOME PEOPLE were so bewitched by Judi Dench's outstanding performance in David Hare's *Amy's View* that they mistook the play for his masterpiece. Nonsense. His earlier *Racing Demon* leaves it standing. Beneath the engrossing story of blackmail and betrayal in a south London parish, lies an analysis of the Church of England, and, by extension, Britain in the Nineties. The sympathies of Hare (right) are genuine and widespread, and the convincing and compelling arguments take real dramatic wing. Like millefeuille pastry, it is richly layered and full of air. Christopher Morahan's production tips the scales a little too heavily, but nothing can detract from the power of the writing. Chichester Festival Theatre, West Sussex 101243 781312 7.30pm



Comedy James Rampton

THE CHIRPY stand-up comedy of Jeff Green (right) has already featured in two TV specials, and a West End run of his show is planned for the autumn. A good, old-fashioned, observational comic, his popularity stems from the charm he exudes when discussing life's little problems. He talks, for instance, about the fact that his dad appears to be getting smaller: "He drops two or three inches every time I go back home. I could keep him in my top pocket in a couple of years."



The Mighty Boosh is billed as "an action-packed woodland bonanza featuring the rooster-like posturing of Howard Moon and the goat-like visage of Vince Noir". And, no doubt, March hares are skipping around to their heart's content. No, welcome to the weird and wonderful world of Julian Barratt and Noel Fielding. *Hen and Chickens*, London N1 (0171-704 2001) 8pm

Classical Duncan Hadfield

THE GABRIELI Consort and Players, conducted by Paul McCreesh, have recently provided one of the best and most authentic renditions of Handel's *Messiah* on disc. Equally sprightly should be their Proms account of "The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba", which forms part of another fine Handel oratorio, *Solomon*. Fresh from his dazzling stage debut in *Rodelinda* at Glyndebourne, counter-tenor Andreas Scholl (below) sings *Solomon* alongside a star-studded cast. Royal Albert Hall, London (0171-539 8212) 7pm
The National Youth Orchestra of Scotland ventures south today to play a timely visit to Birmingham's Symphony Hall. Under Junichi Hirokami's baton, the ensemble opens with one of its own commissions - Rory Boyle's celebratory fantasy, *Copriccio*, followed by Prokofiev's 3rd Piano Concerto, and Berlioz's glittering *Symphonie Fantastique*. Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333) 7.30pm



CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0171-935 9773) @ Baker Street
Godzilla 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm
Sliding Doors 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0171-930 0631) @ Piccadilly Circus
As Good As It Gets 2pm, 5pm, 8pm
The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
Jackie Brown 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 7.45pm
Live Flesh 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-437 3561) @ Piccadilly Circus
Different For Girls 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Lolita 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0171-836 6279) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
The Gingerbread Man 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
Hana-Bi 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0171-439 4470) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus
Deconstructing Harry 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Kiss or Kill 3.50pm
Life is All You Get 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Sling Blade 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
The Taste of Cherry 1.10pm, 6.10pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0171-636 6148) @ Tottenham Court Road
City of Angels 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The Object of My Affection 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
The Wedding Singer 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-362 7000) @ Moorgate/Barbican
The Daytrippers 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3142) @ Sloane Square
Love and Death on Long Island 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-489 2242) @ Clapham Common
The Daytrippers 4.30pm, 8.45pm, 9pm
Godzilla 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm
Life is All You Get 7pm, 9.30pm
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, 2.15pm
The Magic Sword: Quest for Camelot 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
The Daytrippers 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle
Godzilla 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.05pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm
The Little Mermaid 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 8.45pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0171-437 1234) @ Leicester Square
The Castle 12noon, 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Godzilla 11.20am, 2.20pm, 5.30pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate
Hana-Bi 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0171-737 2121) @ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith
Barney's Great Adventure 1.30pm, 2.20pm, 4.15pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm
Godzilla 1.20pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm
The Little Mermaid 1.20pm, 2pm, 4.10pm
The Magic Sword: Quest for Camelot 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 6pm, 8.30pm
Sliding Doors 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 8.45pm

METRO (0171-437 0757) @ Piccadilly
Circus Hana-Bi 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
Love and Death on Long Island 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9.05pm

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) @ Knightsbridge
Life is All You Get 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate
Godzilla 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0171-315 4229) @ Camden Town
The Daytrippers 1.20pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm
The Gingerbread Man 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 5.05pm, 8.50pm
Godzilla 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.15pm
Sling Blade 1.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.25pm
The Wedding Singer 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0171-315 4212) @ Piccadilly Circus
The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0171-315 4214) @ High Street
Kensington The Castle 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm
City of Angels 1.25pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm, 9.40pm
The Gingerbread Man 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm
Godzilla 1.10pm, 2.50pm, 6pm, 9.10pm
The Little Mermaid 1.10pm, 1.45pm
The Object of My Affection 12.55pm, 3.40pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 3.50pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0171-315 4216) @ Marble Arch
City of Angels 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm
The Gingerbread Man 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm
Godzilla 11.30am, 1.15pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm, 9pm
The Little Mermaid 12noon, 2pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0171-315 4212) @ Leicester Square
As Good As It Gets 5.45pm, 8.25pm
Point Blank 6.30pm, 8.55pm
The Replacement Killers 6.35pm, 8.45pm
Screen 2 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0171-315 4220) @ Swiss Cottage
The Big Lebowski 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.35pm
The Castle 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 6.55pm, 9.05pm
The Gingerbread Man 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm
Godzilla 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm
The Magic Sword: Quest for Camelot 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 6.30pm, 8.45pm, 9.15pm

ODEON WEST END (0171-315 4221) @ Leicester Square
The Object of My Affection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

PHOENIX CINEMA (0171-434 6788) @ East Finchley
Anastasia 2.45pm
Love and Death on Long Island 4.50pm, 6.55pm, 9pm

PLAZA (0171-437 1234) @ Piccadilly Circus
Deep Impact 8.40pm
Godzilla 1.15pm, 4.25pm, 8pm
Mojo 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm
Paulie 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm
Sliding Doors 1pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

RENOIR (0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square
Dance of the Wind 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.50pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm
The Thief 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

RIO CINEMA (0171-254 6677) @ Dalston Kingsland
Godzilla 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-737 2121) @ Brixton
Animal Farm 3.20pm, 5.05pm
The Big Lebowski 9.10pm
The Daytrippers 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm
Godzilla 3pm, 6.15pm, 9pm
Hana-Bi 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm
The Little Mermaid 2.35pm, 4.30pm
Love and Death on Long Island 6.50pm, 9.15pm
Sling Blade 6.20pm
Under the Skin 2.40pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-486 0036) @ Baker Street
Kurt & Courtney 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 8.55pm
Love and Death on Long Island 2.50pm, 4.55pm, 7pm, 9.05pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) @ Angel Hana-Bi
3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-453 3366) @ Belche Park
La Grande Illusion 3pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0171-792 3332) @ Baywater
Barney's Great Adventure 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.30pm
The Castle 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.15pm, 7.35pm, 9.30pm
City of Angels 6.50pm, 9.30pm
The Gingerbread Man 6.40pm, 9.20pm
Godzilla 1.10pm, 1.40pm, 2.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 9pm
The Little Mermaid 11.50am, 2pm, 4.05pm
Mad City 6.10pm, 8.50pm
The Magic Sword: Quest for Camelot 11.05am, 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm
MouseHunt 11.05am, 12.55pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm
Sliding Doors 7.15pm
The Wedding Singer 9.40pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907071) @ Sloane Square
Barney's Great Adventure 12noon, 2pm, 4pm
The Gingerbread Man 6pm, 8.40pm
Godzilla 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.15pm
The Little Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.20pm
The Magic Sword: Quest for Camelot 12.15pm, 2.10pm, 4.30pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
The Wedding Singer 7pm, 9.15pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907071) @ South Kensington
The Big Lebowski 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7.10pm
9.20pm
The Castle 2.30pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm
The Daytrippers 1pm, 3.15pm, 7pm, 9.30pm
Godzilla 12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm
Mad City 12.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
Paulie 12noon, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm
Sliding Doors 9.10pm

[Faint, illegible document fragment]

MONDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

A GOOD WEEK for Ironic Americans: The Late Book (12.30am R4) marks the 10th anniversary of the lamentably early death of Raymond Carver (right) with five of his stories - a selection of bleak, bald-back little sketches of faithless husbands and fathers, dying children, general hopelessness and bafflement. Meanwhile, the afternoon short story slot is occupied, this week by the grappappy of the American short

story, Ernest Hemingway. Today's tale is very much from the core curriculum: Big Two-Hearted River (3.45pm R4), a story of a man, a river and some trout. Which leads us neatly to Loodes of Monsters (9pm R4), in which Chris Yates visits the Serpentine, the River Frome in Dorset and a secret lake to see giant fish - 50lb carp and salmon. Though, obviously, you should have seen the ones that got away. ROBERT HANES



Rayvern Allen profiles great cricketers. 4. Sir Don Bradman, who is 90 this year. 8.00 Interesting. Very Interesting. Sports phone-in with Gary Richardson, Peter Brackley and celebrity guests: 0500 909693. 9.00 It's Coming Home. Former Welsh captain Eddie Bevan reports on the effort to finish the 100-million-pound stadium in Wales before the Rugby World Cup final in Cardiff next year. 9.30 Voices of Sport. Ian Payne profiles the career of the great golf commentator Henry Longhurst, with his former flatmate E W Swanton and proteges Harry Carpenter and Peter Alliss. 10.00 Late Night Live. Nick Robinson sets tomorrow's agenda today, including at 10.30 a full round-up of the day's sport, and at 11.00 a late news briefing. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

RADIO 1 (97.9-99.5MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball.
9.00 Mark Goodier. 12.00 Jo Whitey. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 6.30 Lamacz Live.
10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs. 12.00 The Breezeblock. 2.00 Clive Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Chris Moyles.

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Debbie Throver. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton. 8.00 Big Band Special. 8.30 The Chris Barber Story. 9.30 Mark Lamarr: Shake, Rattle and Roll. 10.00 Richard Allinson. 12.05 Annie Olsen. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Proms Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: George Frideric Handel. 1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 BBC Proms 98. (R)
3.30 Liszt at the Opera.
4.00 Opera to Order.
4.45 Quartet.
5.00 In Tune.
7.00 BBC Proms 98.
8.00 The Golden Age. Simon Hughes explores the circumstances in which Handel composed his oratorio Solomon. Was his depiction of Solomon's glorious reign a reflection of another golden age - the England of his own patron, King George II?
8.20 Solomon. Act 2.
9.45 The Flesh Made Word. Leading writers consider the relationship between religion and language. What happens when you put faith - or the lack of it - into words? In an unscripted talk, TS Eliot Prize-winning Australian poet, Les Murray, describes how both poetry and religion can work like a rear view mirror, in which you can occasionally catch glimpses of God.
9.55 Solomon. Act 3.
10.40 Postscript. Five programmes exploring some of the century's greatest houses and the contribution they have made to the way we think - and how we think about our

homes. The series opens with Charles Rennie Mackintosh's delightful Hill House - Victorian gloom is swept aside and the first glimmers of modernism can be seen. Written and presented by Susan Marling. Reader David Jessel.
11.05 Scottish Impressions.
11.50 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Karol Szymanowski. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

blockbuster, starring Gary Oldman and William Hurt.
7.45 Postcards: The Fall. By Jonathan Holloway. When pregnant, Charlotte returns to Portchar Bay, Cornwall, with her niece Holly, both find unexpected romance and passion. With Charlotte Coleman and Elaine Pyke. Director David Hunter. (15)
8.00 NEWS: The Beat. Four programmes following community police officers at work in West Yorkshire. Features the case of a pregnant woman trying to escape her violent husband.
8.30 Analysis. Changing Asian Values? What does the collapse of Asian tiger economies say about the relationship between the countries' political cultures and their economic development? Anthony Dworkin visits Indonesia, the region's largest and worst-hit country, and asks whether the crisis will spur a move towards democracy and openness.
9.00 NEWS: Landscape of Monsters. Chris Yates explores the underwater environment, where nature now longer follows the rules and can now produce fish up to three times the size they should be for their species. See Pick of the Day.
9.30 Word for Word. Melenie Phillips challenges a lively panel of guests to unpack the meaning of a single word, considering its origins and changing definitions through history to discover what we can learn about our lives and values by the way we define the word today.

10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: A Patchwork Planet. By Anne Tyler, abridged in 10 parts by Pat McLoughlin, read by William Hope. Barnaby Rudge is nearly 30, divorced, directionless, the black sheep of his philanthropic Baltimore family. He also has a heart of gold. (8/10)
11.00 Radio 4 Appeal. George Baker speaks on behalf of the ME Association.
11.02 Griefs.
11.30 At the Foot of the Mountain.
12.00 News.
12.30 Late Book: Raymond Carver Short Stories. See Pick of the Day.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (186kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 11.00 - 12.00 Test Match Special. 1.30 - 5.54 Test Match Special. 5.57 - 6.30 Cricket. 1.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.
RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 The Breakfast Programme.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Rennie and Co.
4.00 Nationwide.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 Cricket Legends. David

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

YOU CAN classify most players into one of two categories: the pragmatists and the purists. A purist always looks for the objectively best move, while a pragmatist, seeks primarily to make life easy for himself and score as many points as he can. One the whole, the pragmatists obtain the better results.

One of the great advantages of being a pragmatist is that you do not get too upset when your position is poor. You shrug your shoulders and make the best of it. Under the same circumstances, a purist will be too annoyed with himself for making the errors that led to his disadvantage in the first place.

Today's game illustrates one of the basic rules of pragmatic chess: The best time to sacrifice a pawn is at precisely the same moment that your opponent wins one. You need to obtain only a little compensation for lost material to leave your opponent feeling uneasy, and when that happens, he will begin to feel that his luck is against him.

When Black castled, I suspect he underestimated the immediate effect of 15.Bxh6. If he recaptures with the bishop, he loses the d-pawn, while taking with the knight, as he did in the game, loses the b-

pawn. After 18.Nxb6 Qe7, however, Black made it look like a deep sacrifice. With ...Rb8 threatened, White tried to force a draw by giving the pawn back, but Black sensed his opponent's discomfort and increased the pressure. Once 30...Bb1 had induced a weakness on the long white diagonal, White's bishop was drawn like a magnet back to f1, when a simple fork ended the game.

White: Ed Formanek
Black: Anatoly Lein
Philadelphia 1998

1 d4 Nf6	19 Qb4 Rxa2
2 c4 e6	20 Qb3 Ra5
3 N3 B6	21 Qb4 Rc5
4 Ne3 Bb7	22 Na4 Rc7
5 Bg5 h6	23 N4 Rb8
6 Bb4 Be7	24 Qd2 e5
7 Qc2 c5	25 N3 Bc6
8 e3 d6	26 Ra1 Rcb7
9 h3 a6	27 Rdb1 Nd4
10 Re1 Nbd7	28 Qc2 Rb4
11 Be2 Rc8	29 Bb3 Qb7
12 dxc5 Rxc5	30 Ne1 Bb4
13 0-0 Qa8	31 g3 Bf8
14 Rfd1 0-0	32 Bf1 Bxa4
15 Bxf6 Nxf6	33 Rxa4 Rxa4
16 Na4 Be4	34 Qxa4 Nc3
17 Qb3 Ra5	White resigned
18 Nxb6 Qa7	

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

YOU MAY wonder why most of the book reviews I give in this column are favourable. The answer is simple: if I do not judge a book to be worth recommending, I do not review it. (With apologies to any fine authors whom I have inadvertently omitted to mention.)

There is much excellent material in *Bridge: Defence in Depth* by Martin Hoffman (Batsford 9.99), but I had the odd reservation about this deal. South opened One Club and rebid One Spade over his partner's response of One Diamond. Then he went on to the spade game after his partner had raised his second suit. West led a trump against Four Spades and East's queen lost to the ace.

Game all; dealer South
North
10 7 6 5
A 9 2
Q 8 7 5 2
4 2

West
4 2
K 8 6 5 4
K 10 6 4
5 3

East
Q 8
J 10 7
A 13
K Q 10 8 7

South
A K J 9 3
Q 3
9
A J 9 6 4

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

THE RECENT World Cup confirmed to the rest of the planet what Arsenal fans have been claiming for a couple of seasons now - that Dennis Bergkamp is one of the finest strikers in the world. His crucial - and exquisitely skilful - goal in the last minute of the quarter-final against Argentina will linger long in the memory. As Highbury regulars start to drool at the prospect of the new season, Sky Sports 1 comes up with the

timely profile. Football Special: Dutch Master - Tribute to Dennis Bergkamp (7pm Sky Sports 1). It is a mark of Gwyneth Paltrow's talents as an actress, that it is well-nigh impossible to tell she is American from her performance in the title role of Emma (11am and 6.30pm Sky Movies Screen 1, right). She shines in Douglas McGrath's well-wrought adaptation of the Jane Austen novel. JAMES RAMPTON



SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1
6.00 Star! (1988) (57052). 9.00 Father of the Bride Part I (1991) (46534). 11.00 Emma (1996) (53114). 1.00 Dangerous Curves (1987) (43353). 3.00 Father of the Bride Part II (1991) (46535). 5.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 6.30 Emma. See Pick of the Day (1996) (27943). 8.30 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 10.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 11.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 12.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 1.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 2.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 3.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 4.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 5.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 6.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 7.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 8.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 9.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 10.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 11.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 12.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 1.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 2.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 3.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1993) (46536). 4.00 The Bonfire of the 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